

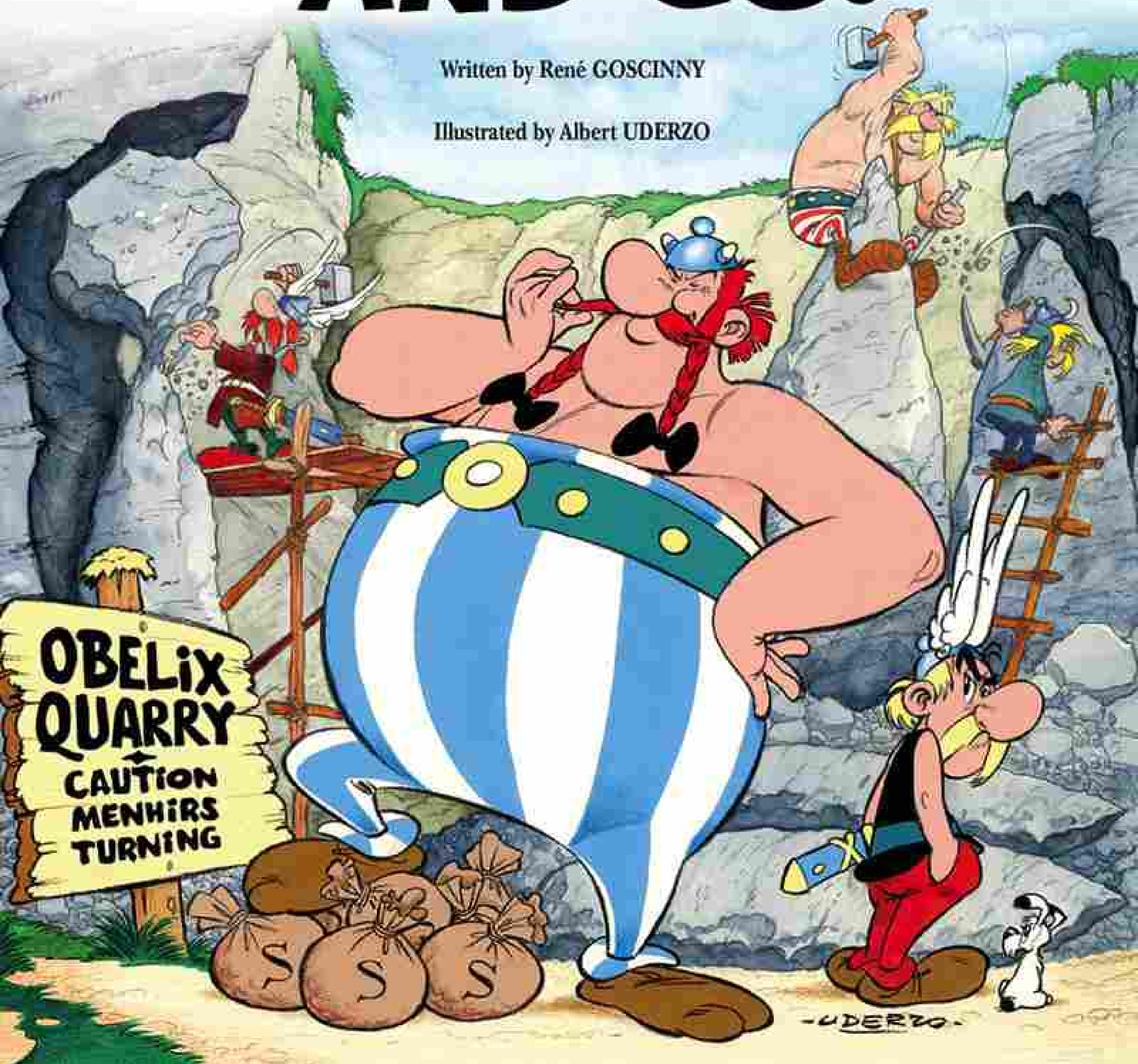
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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



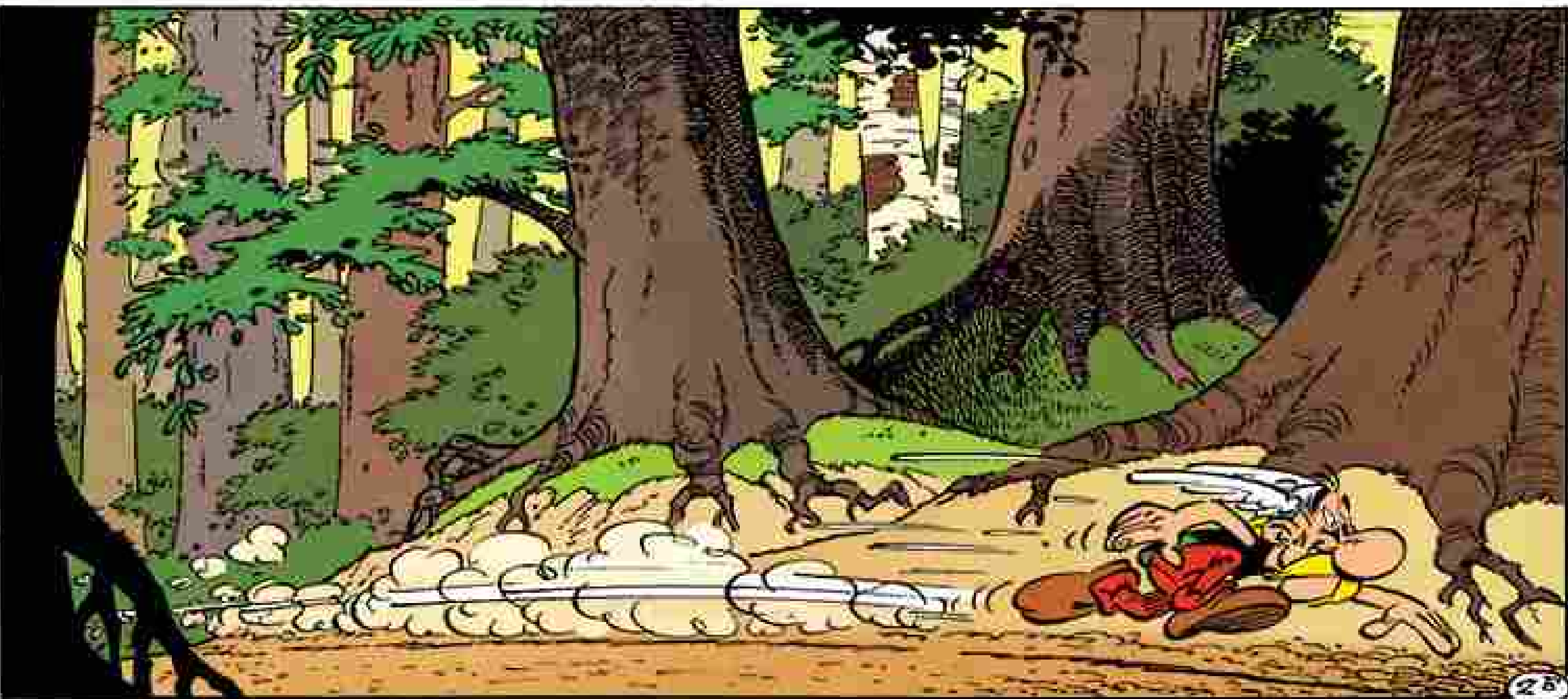
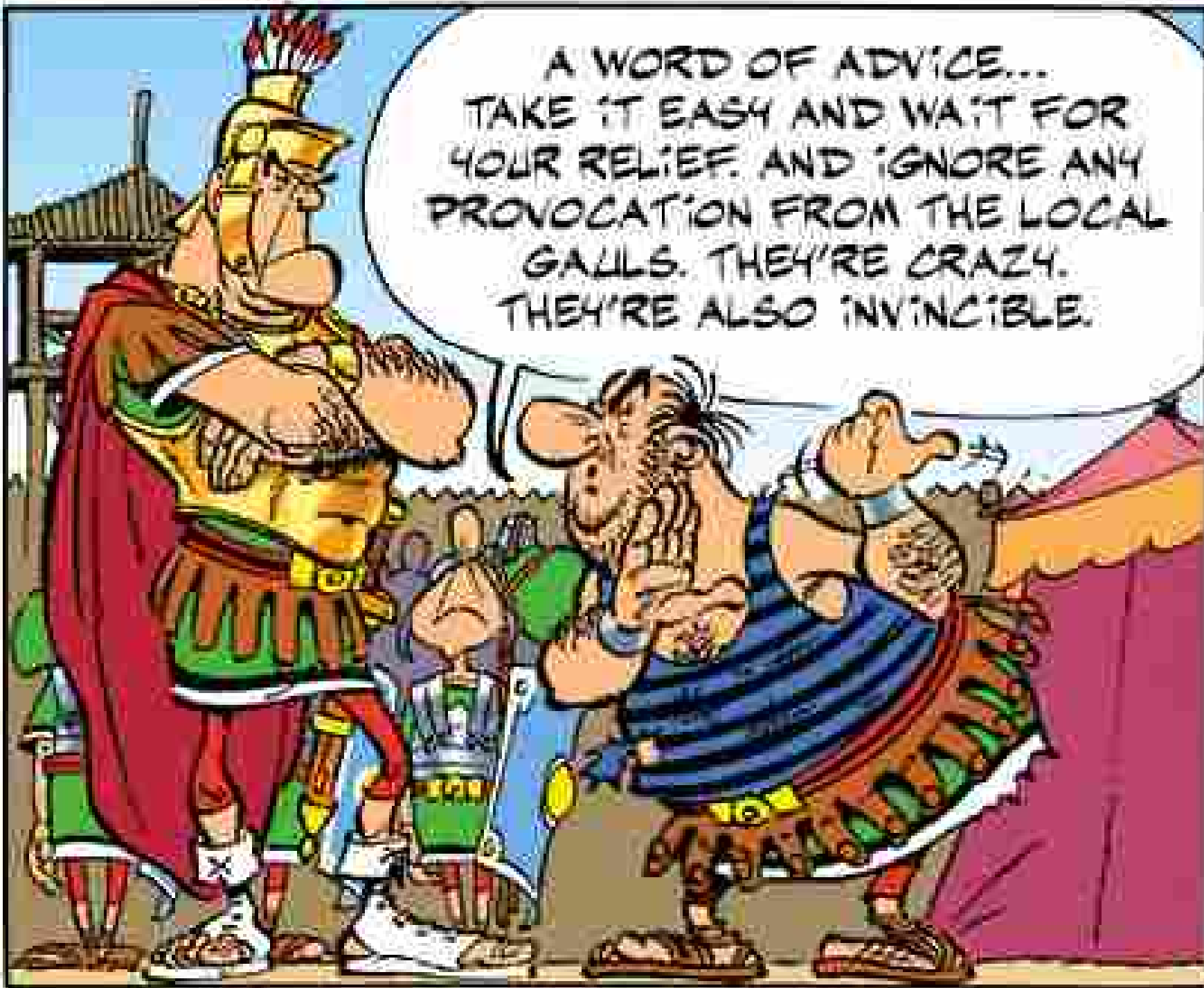
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

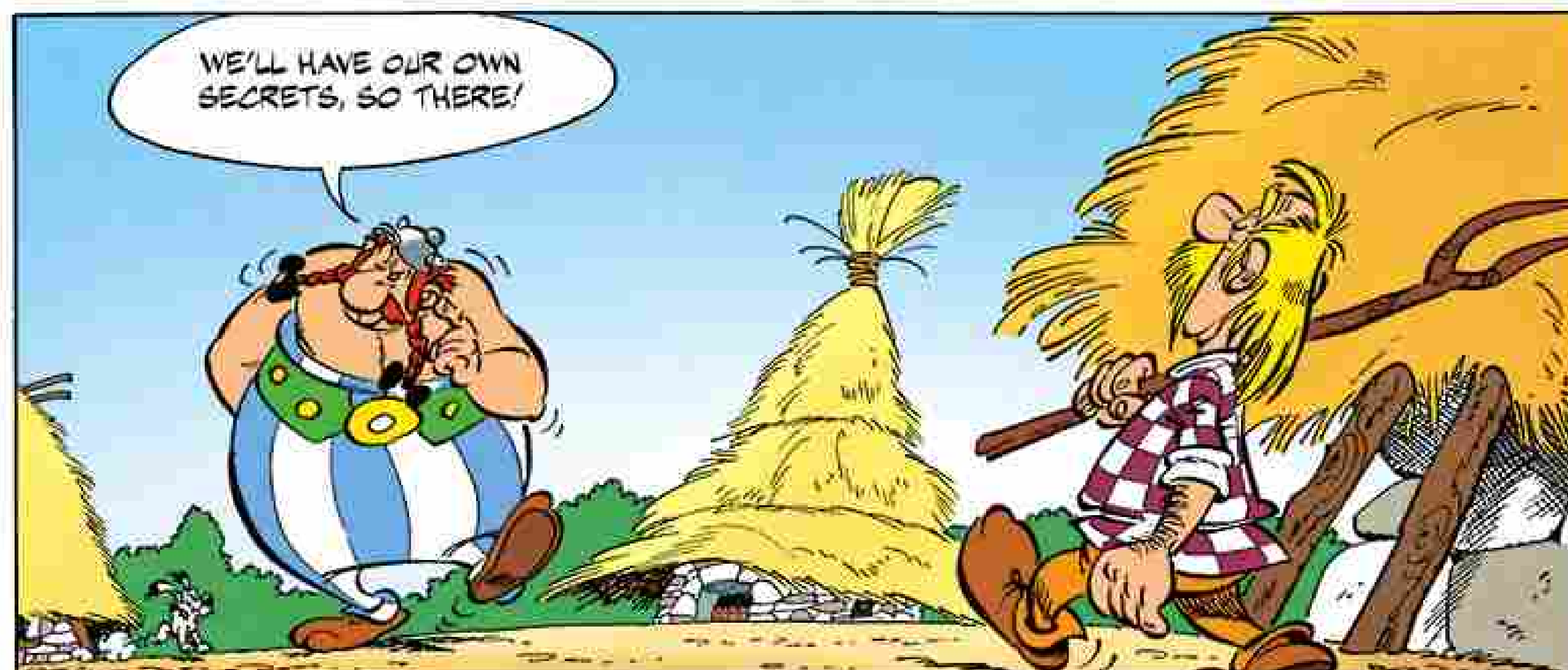
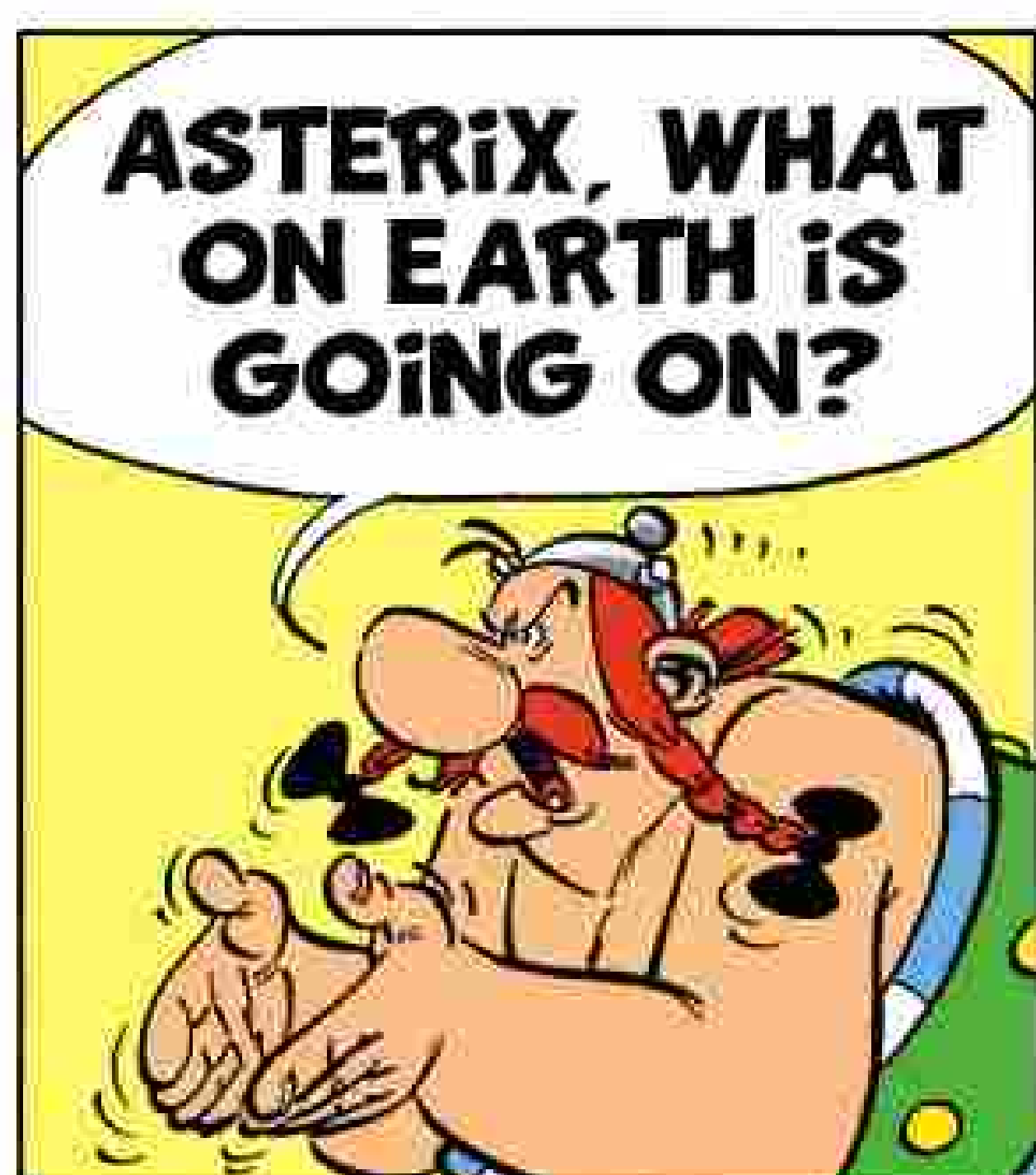


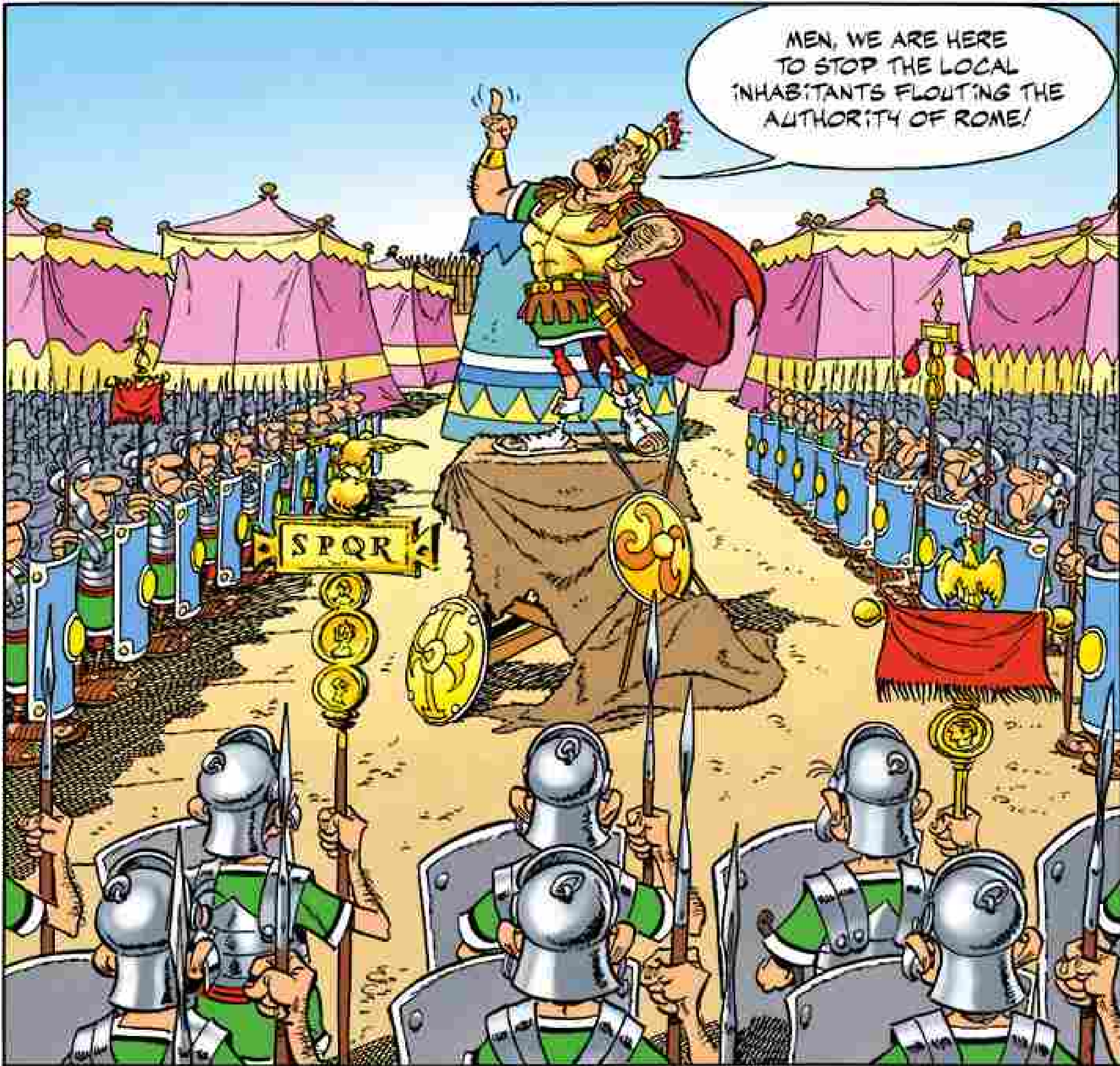
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.



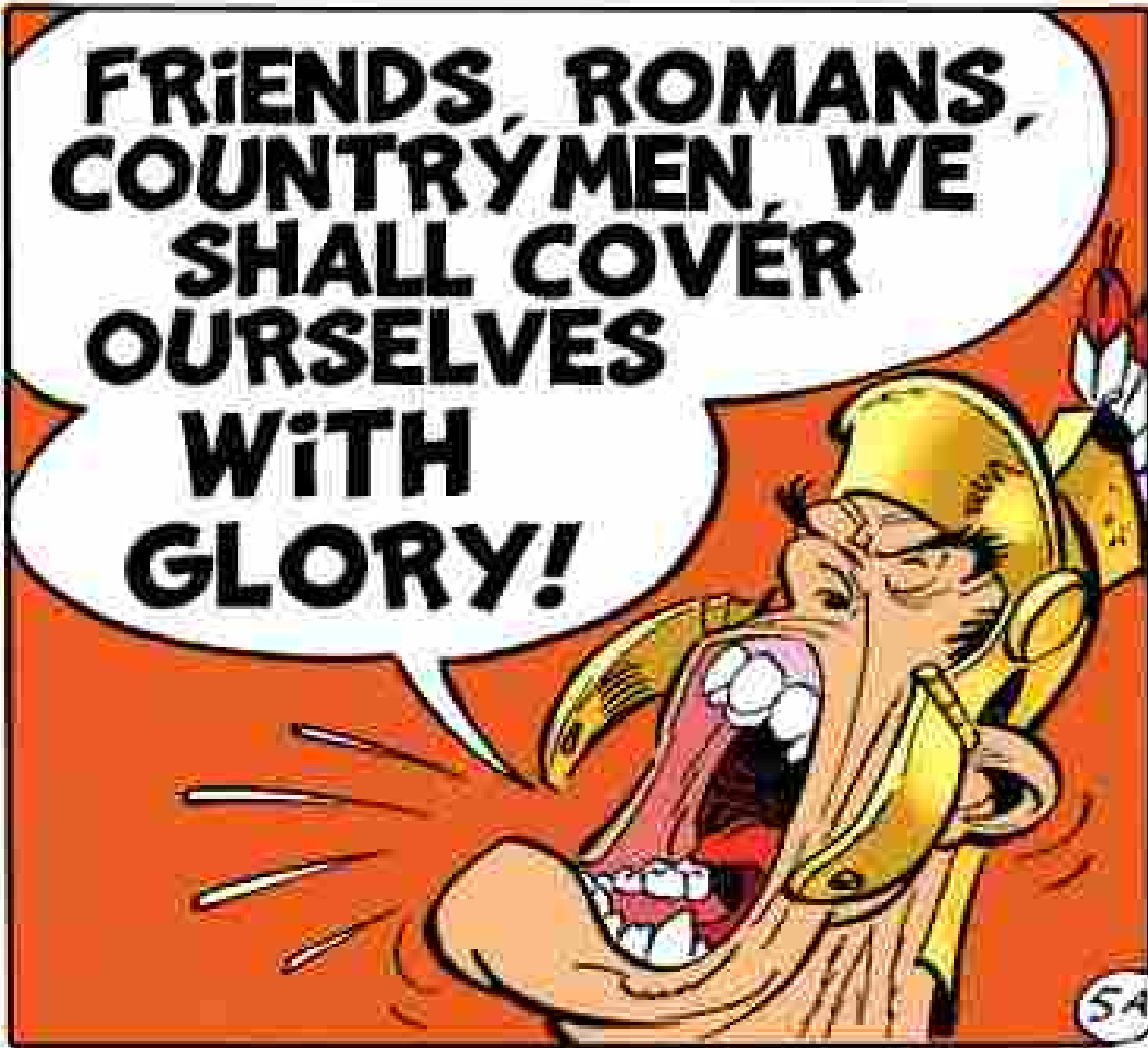




MEN, WE ARE HERE TO STOP THE LOCAL INHABITANTS FLOUTING THE AUTHORITY OF ROME!



WE SHALL BRING THAT LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE TO HEEL, AND WE'RE NOT STANDING FOR ANY NONSENSE!



FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN, WE SHALL COVER OURSELVES WITH GLORY!



THERE'S A GALL AT THE CAMP GATES, CENTURION, SIR!



AHA! MAYBE THEY SENSED THAT THINGS WERE GOING TO CHANGE... OPEN THE GATES!



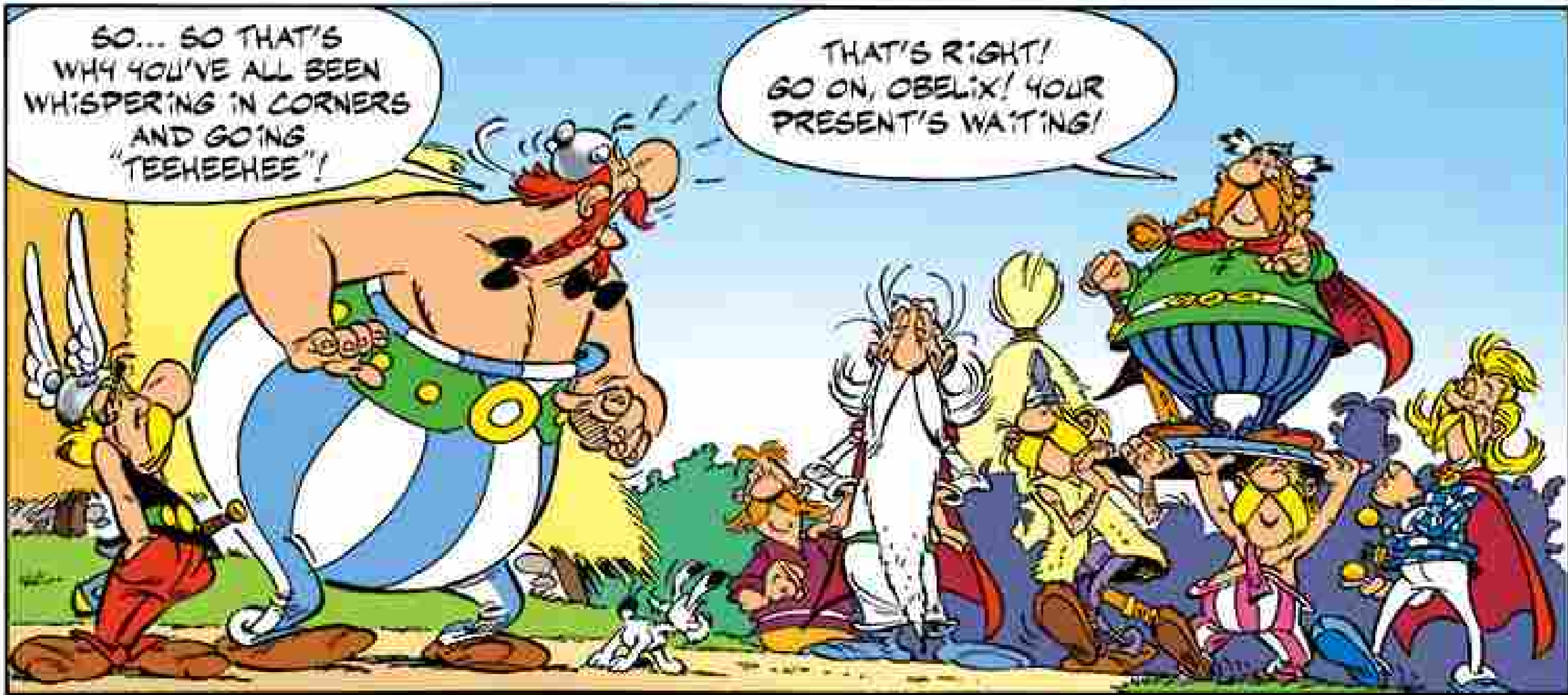
WELL, GALL? COME TO SURRENDER?

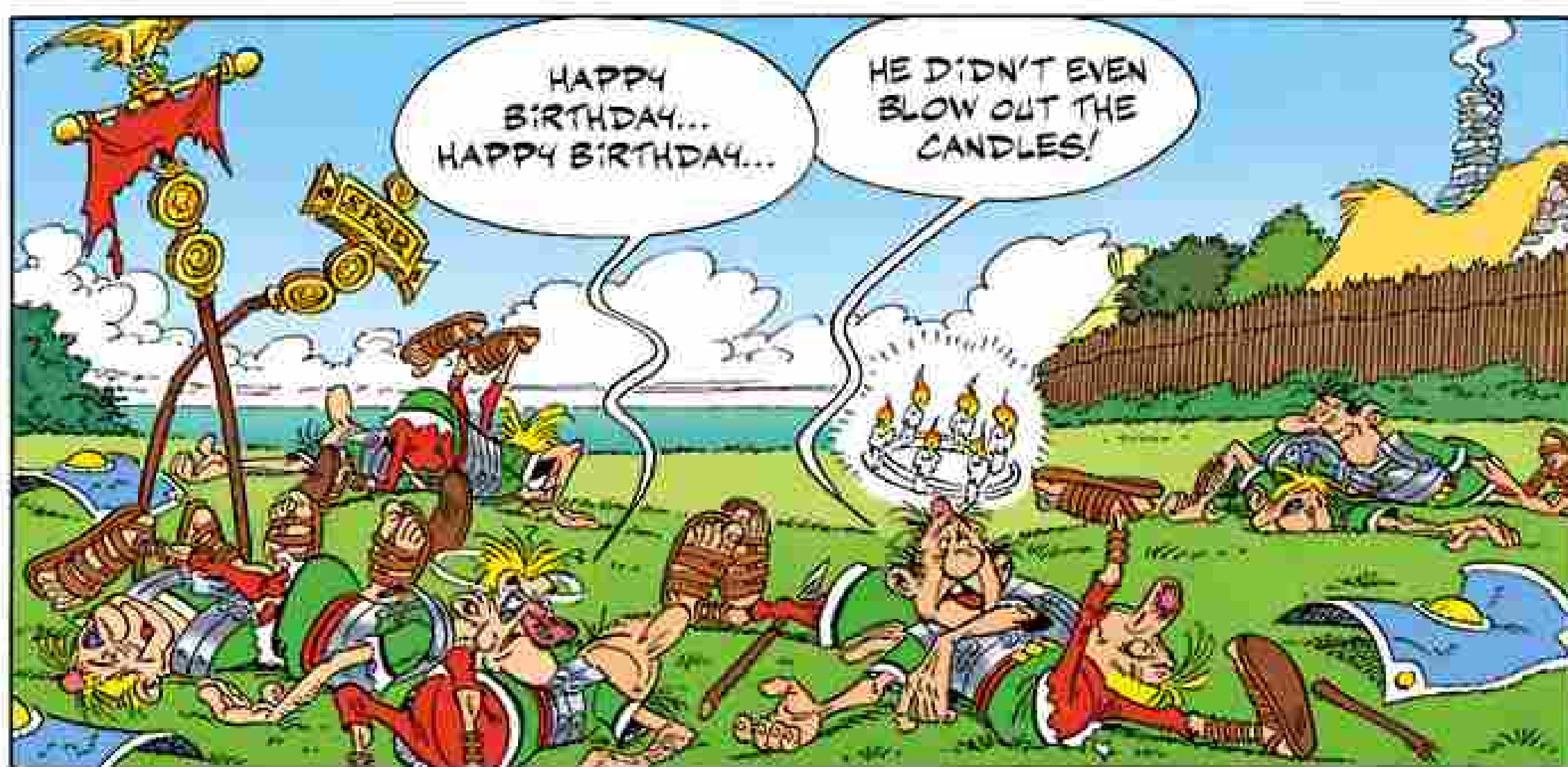
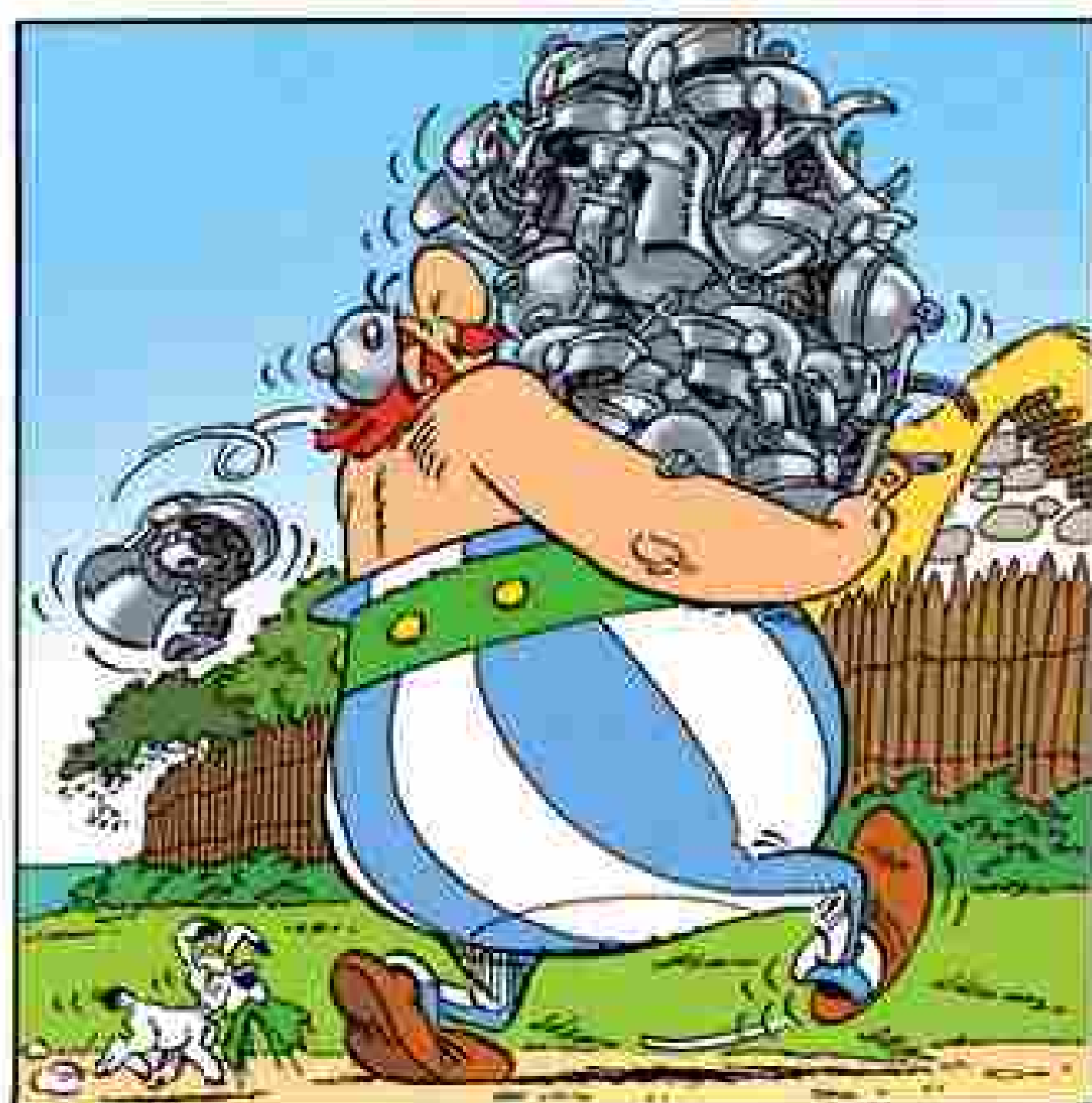
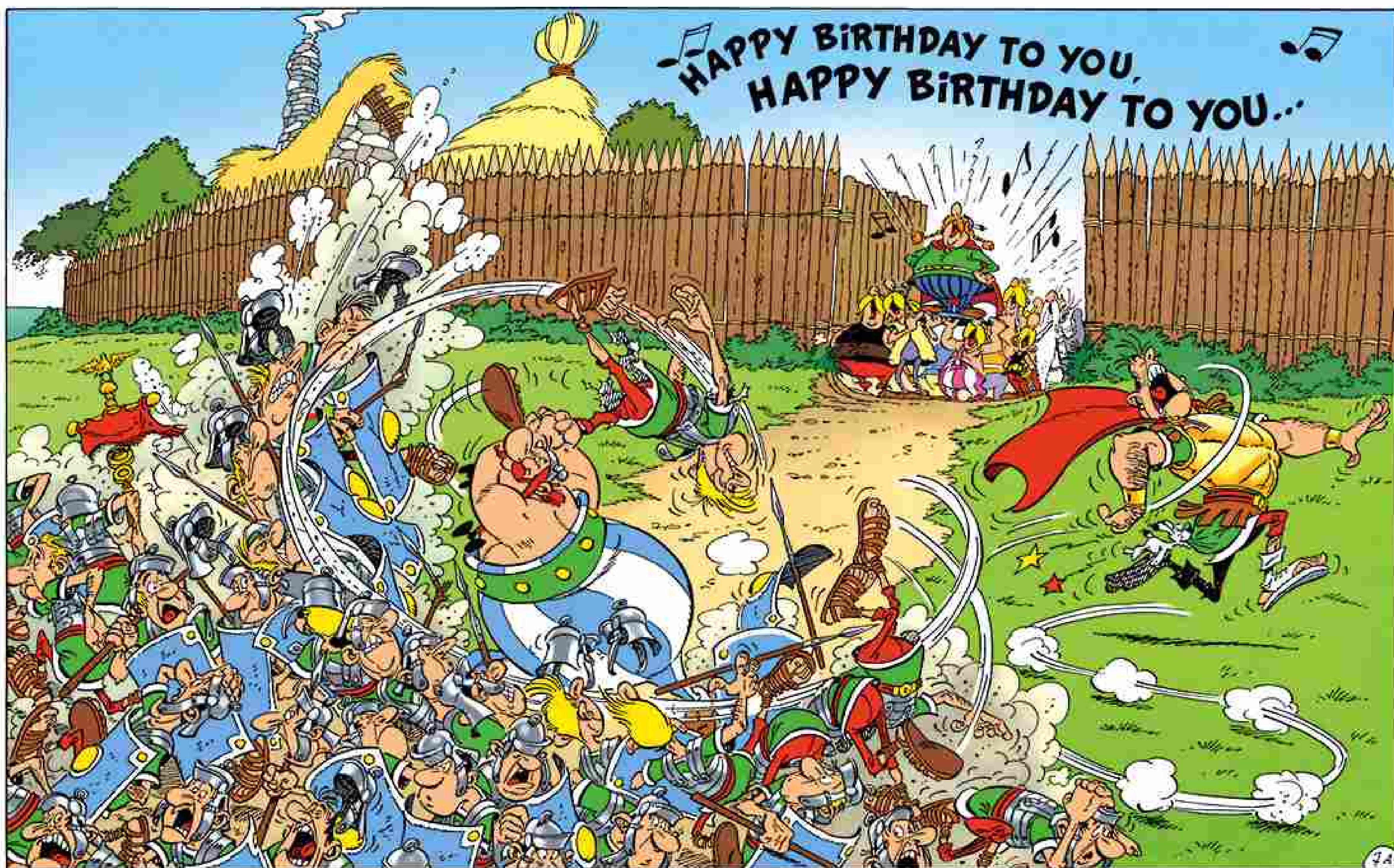


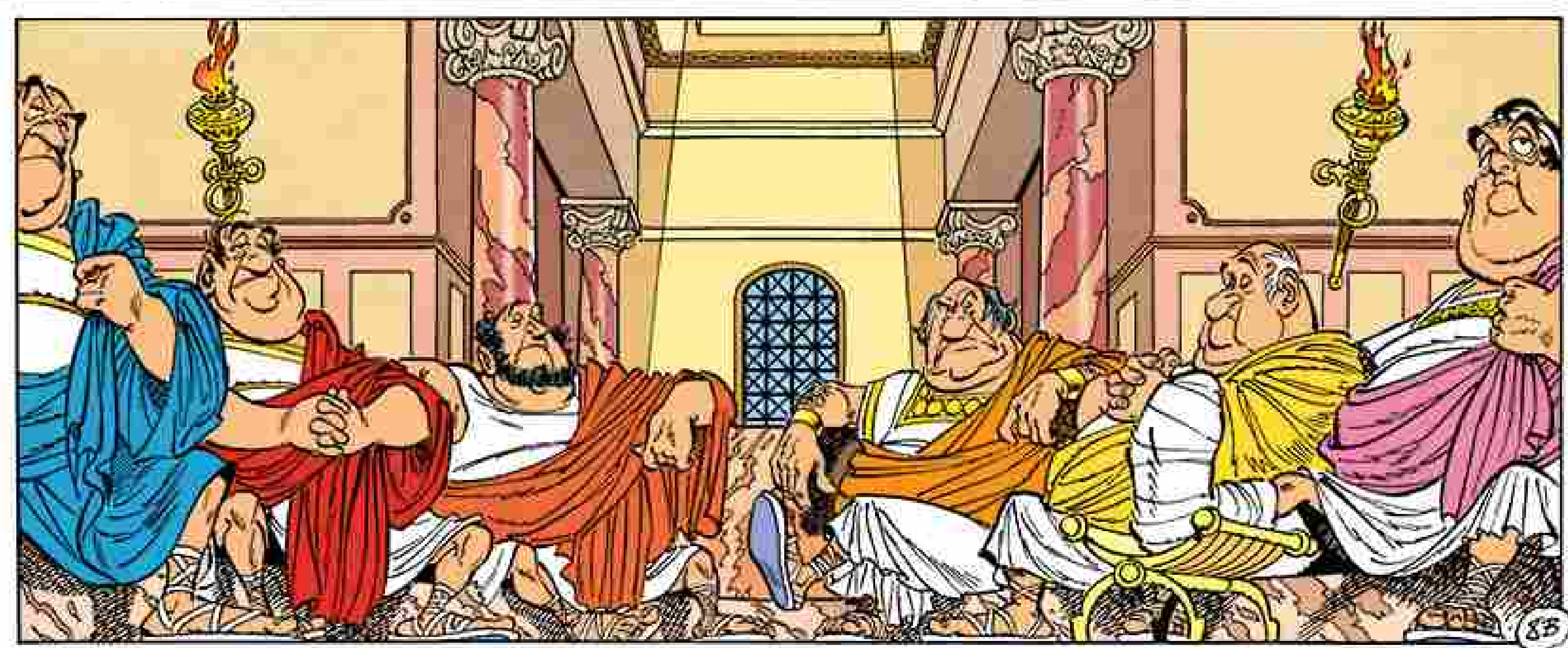
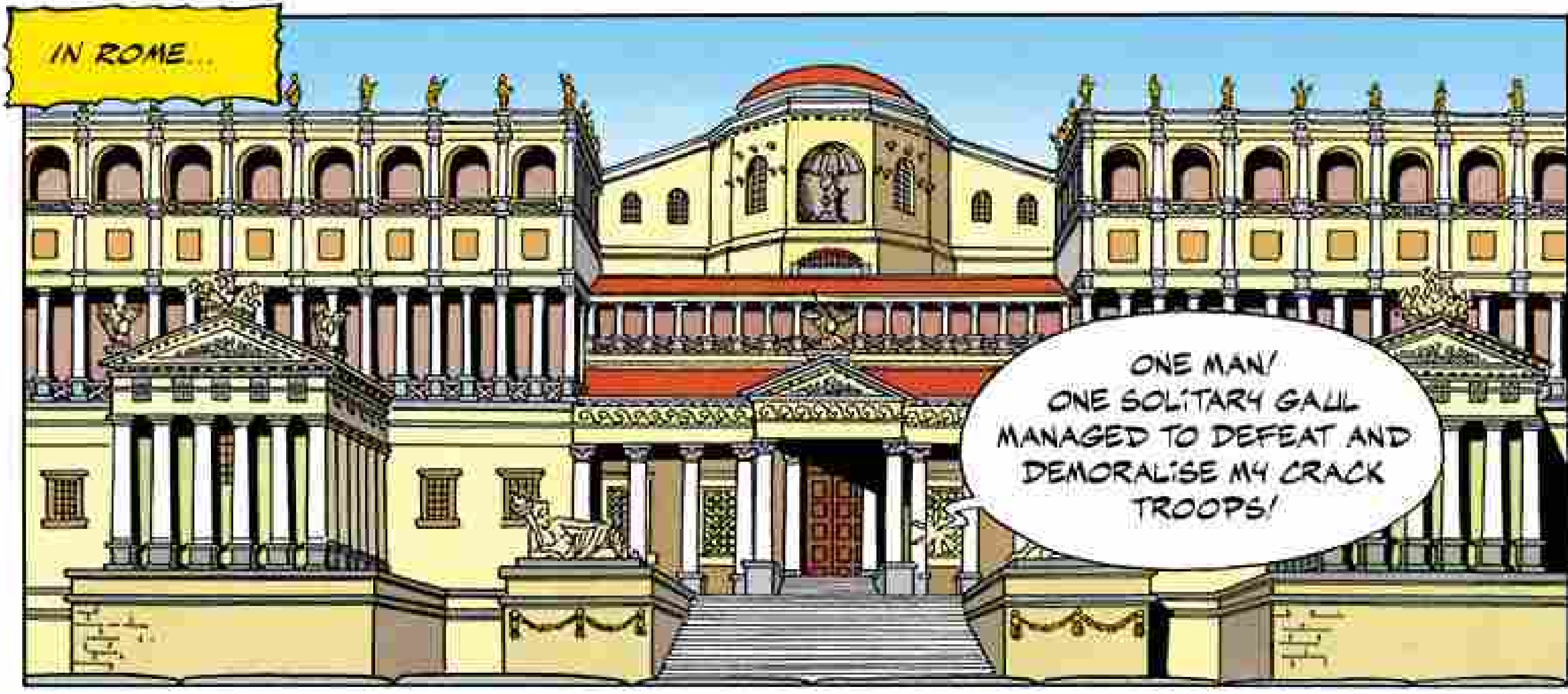
HAHAHAHAHAH!



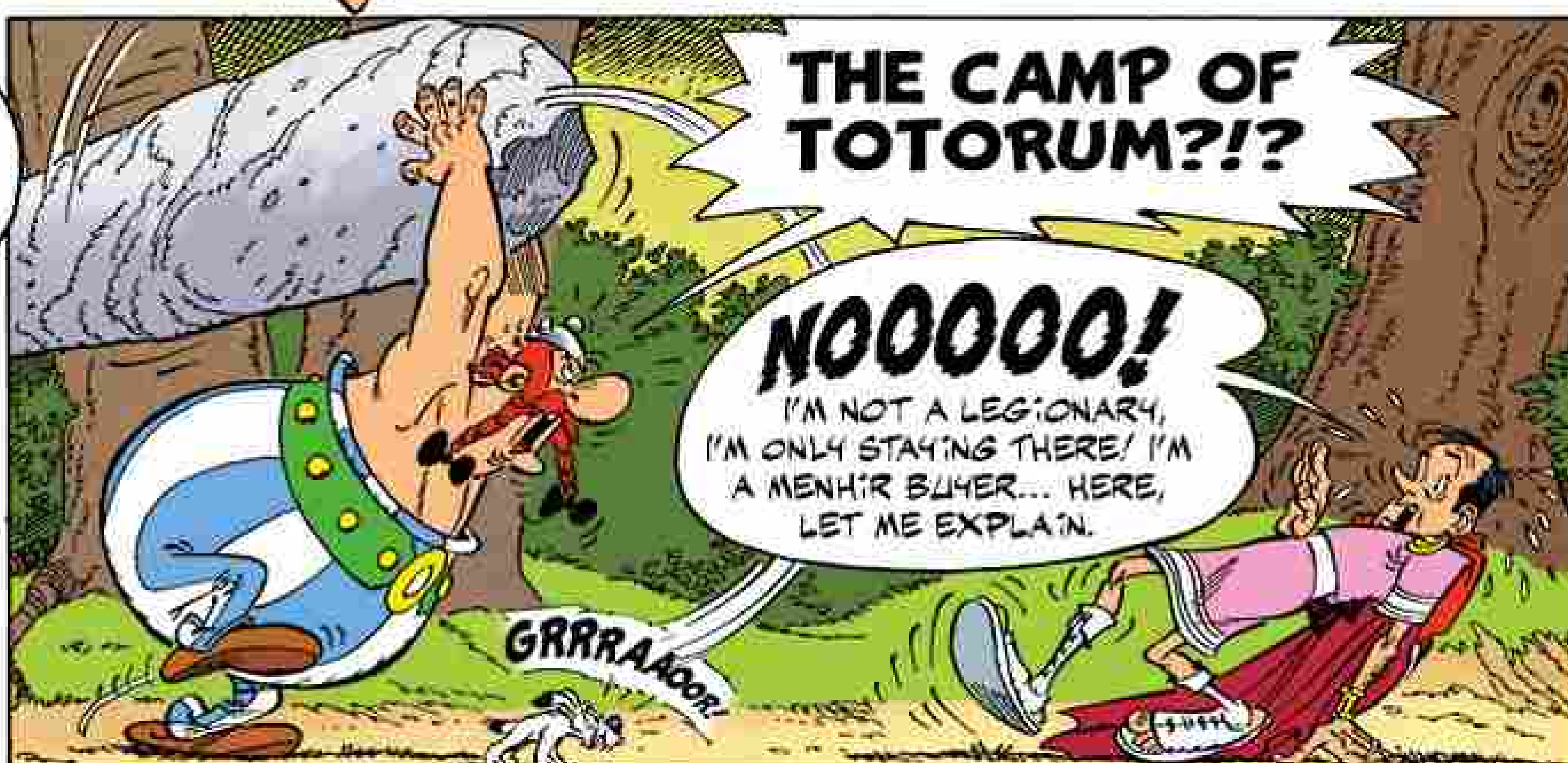
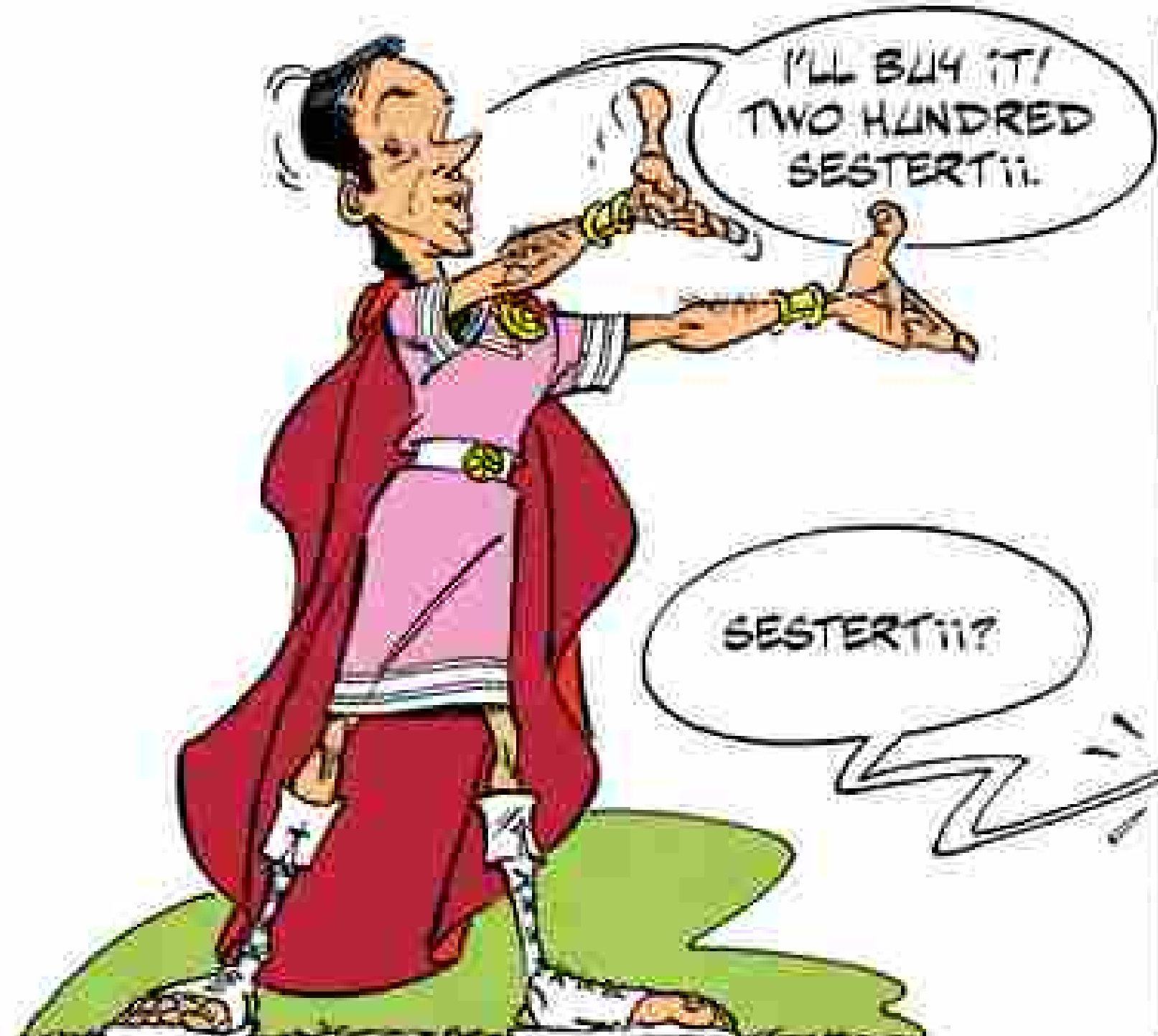
MEN, CATCH THAT MIDGET! WE'LL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF HIM!

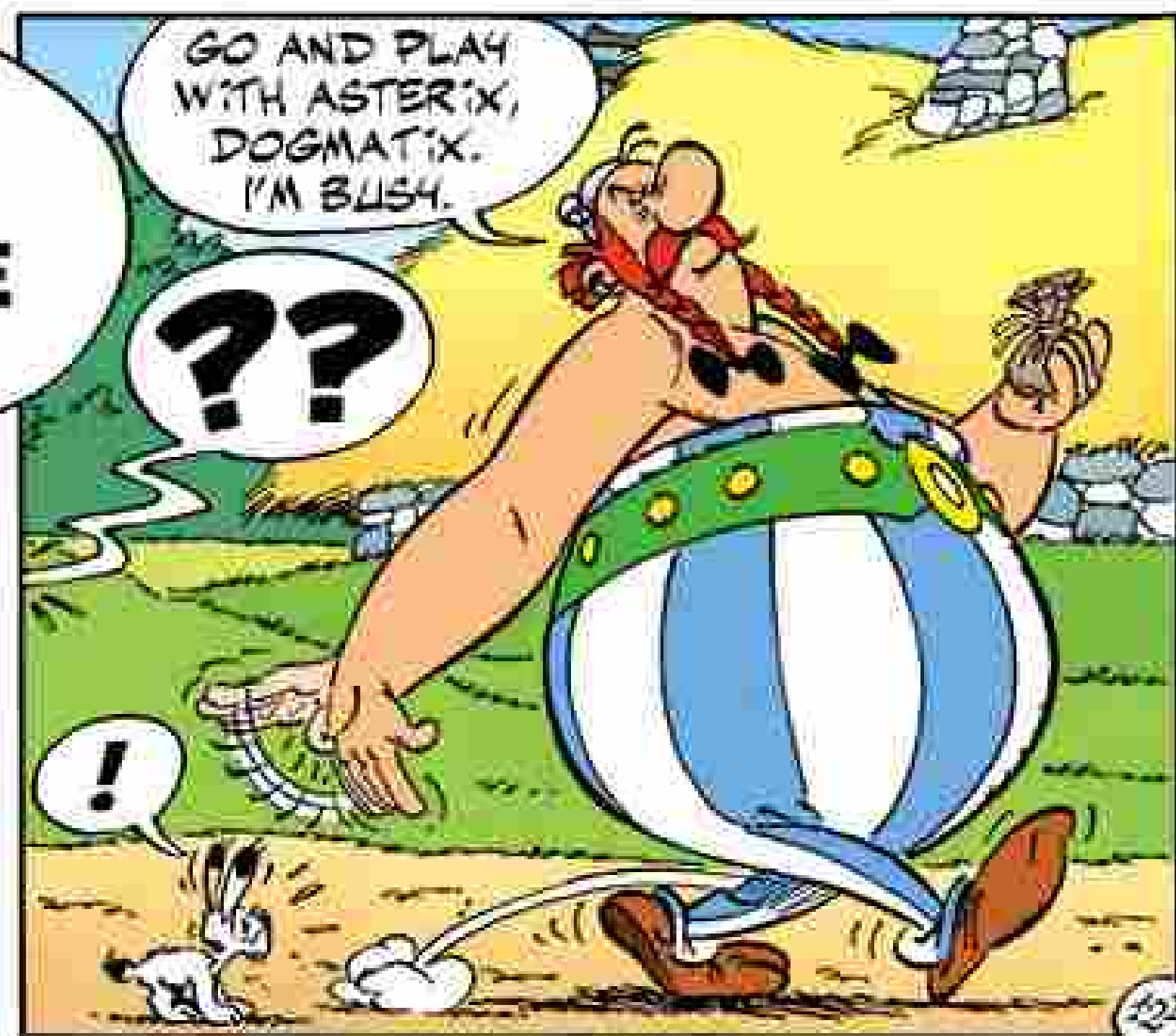
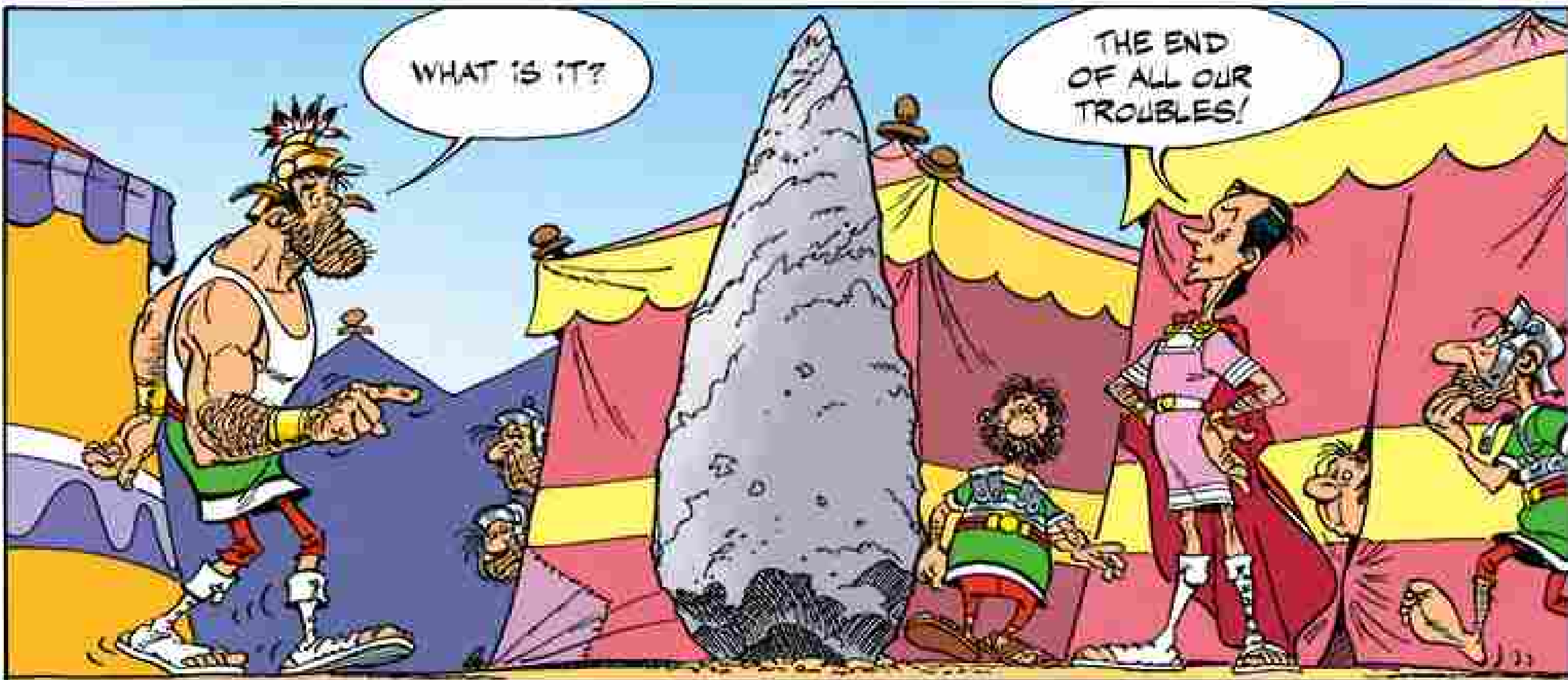
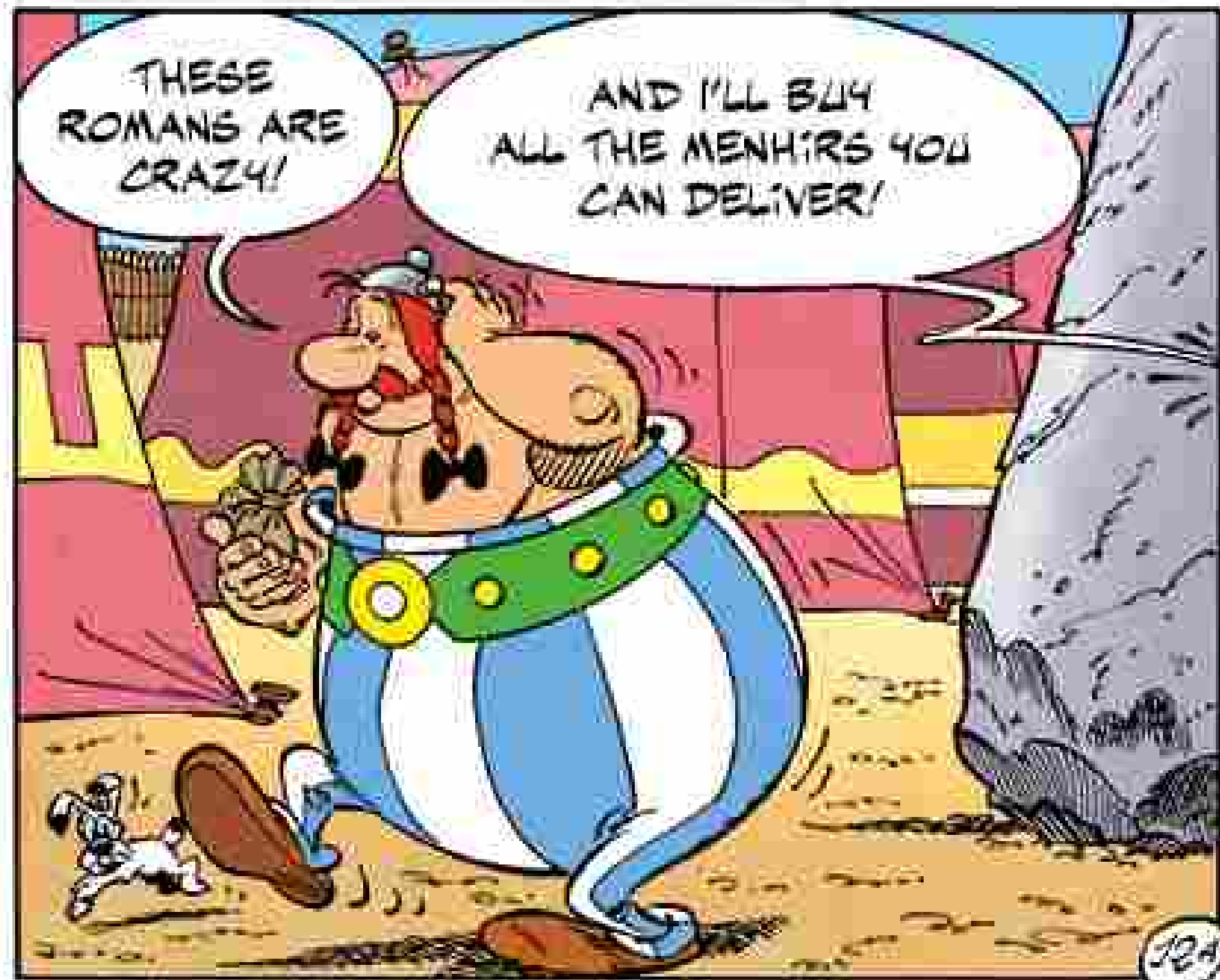
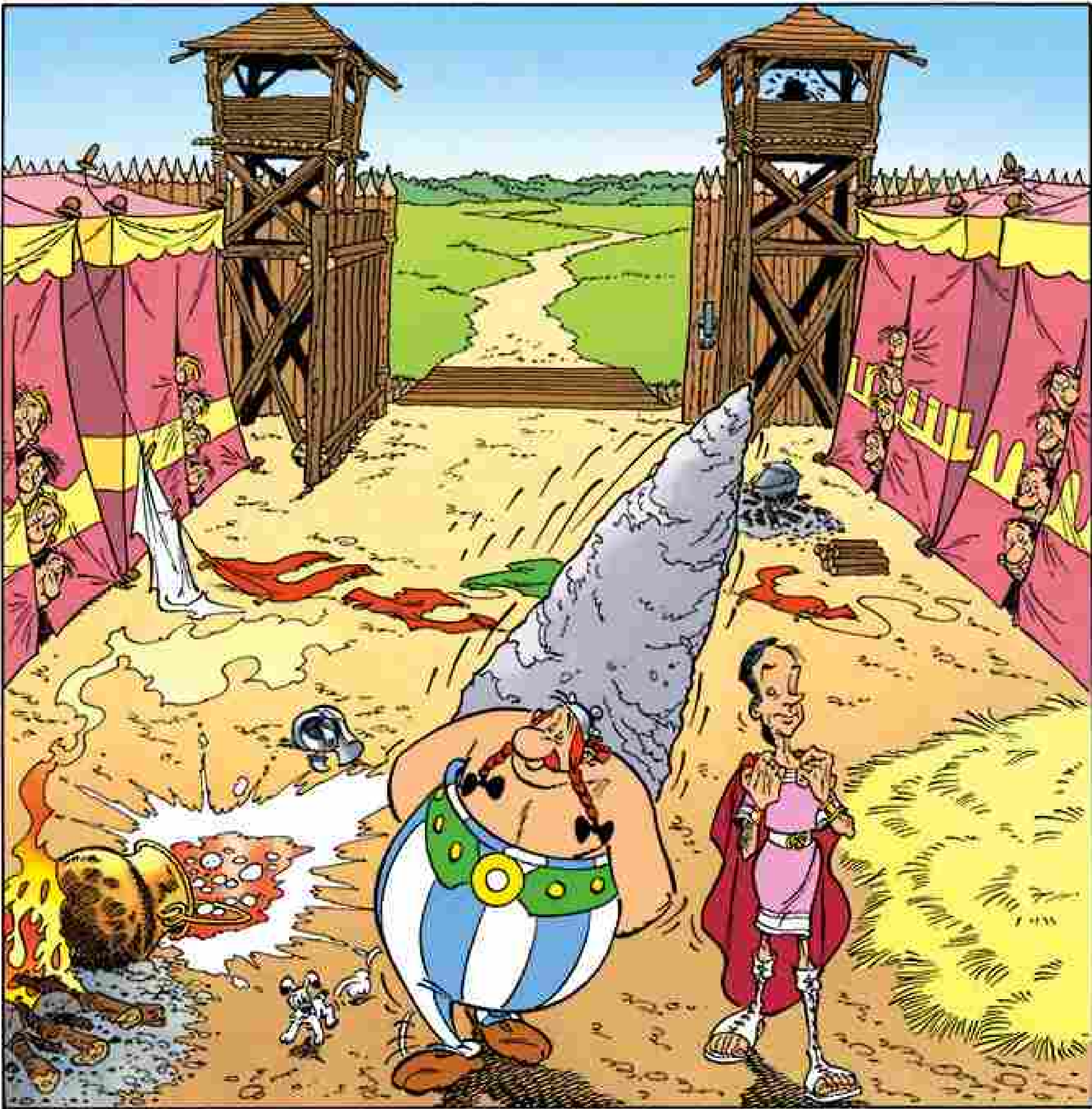


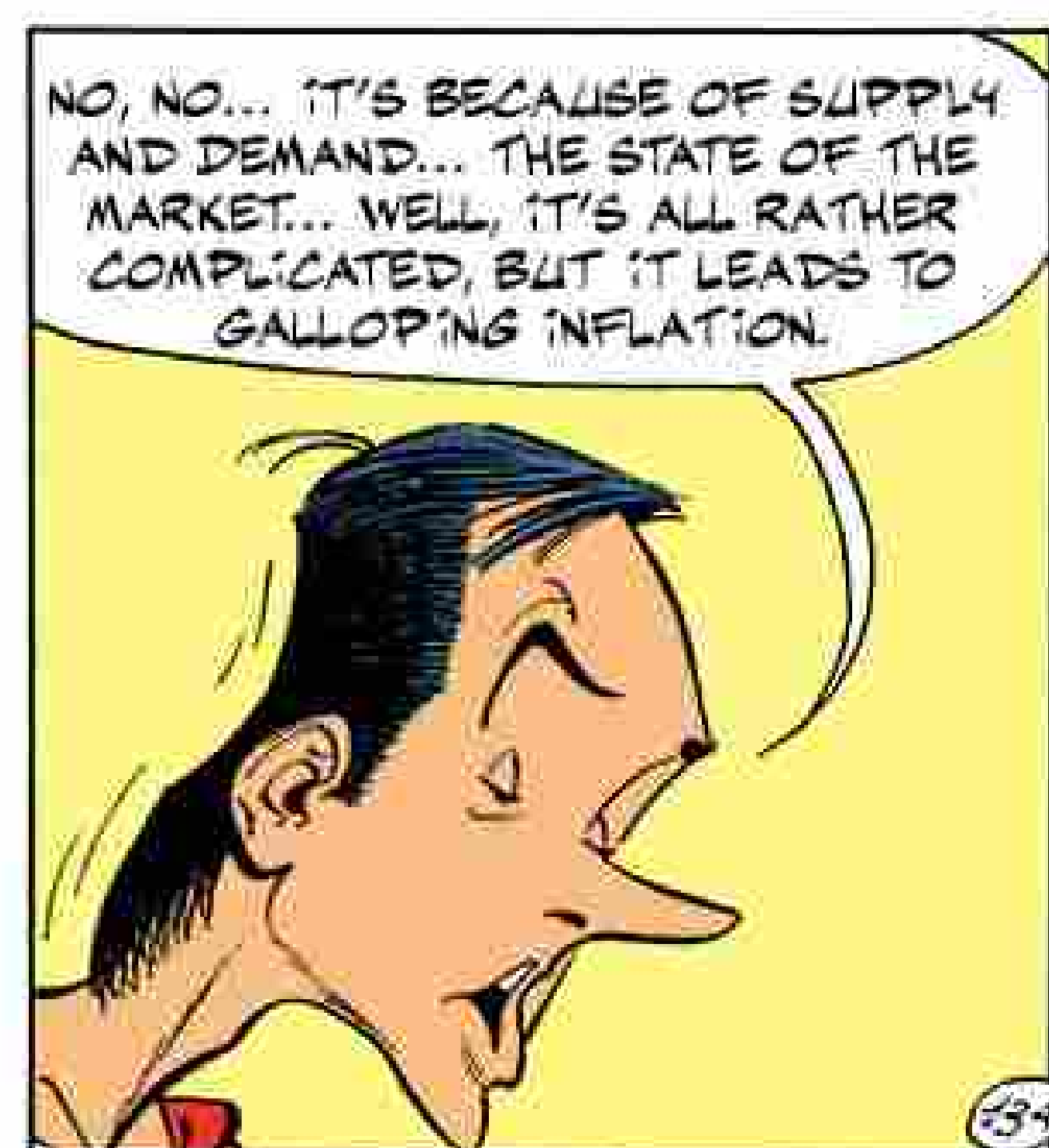


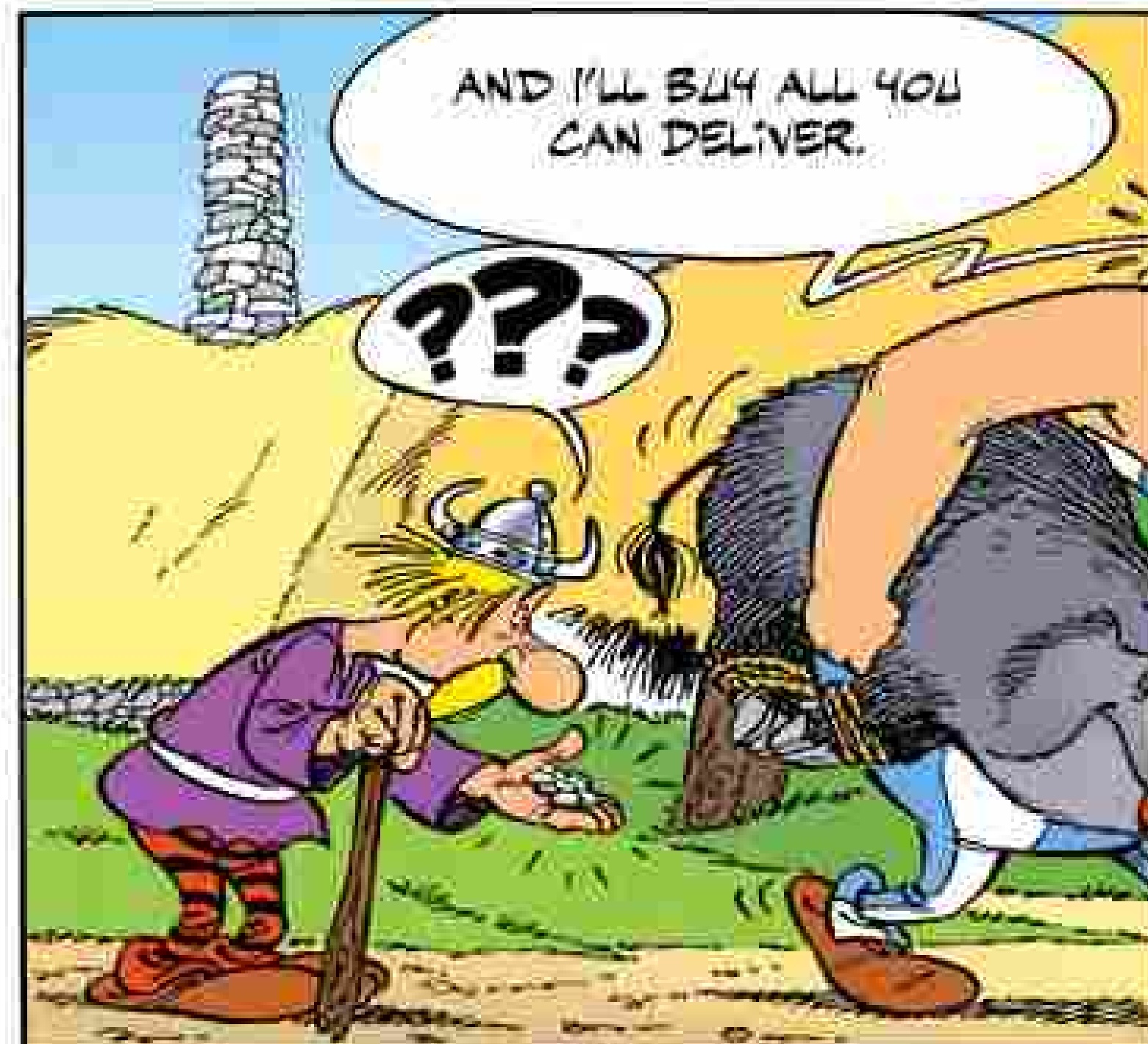
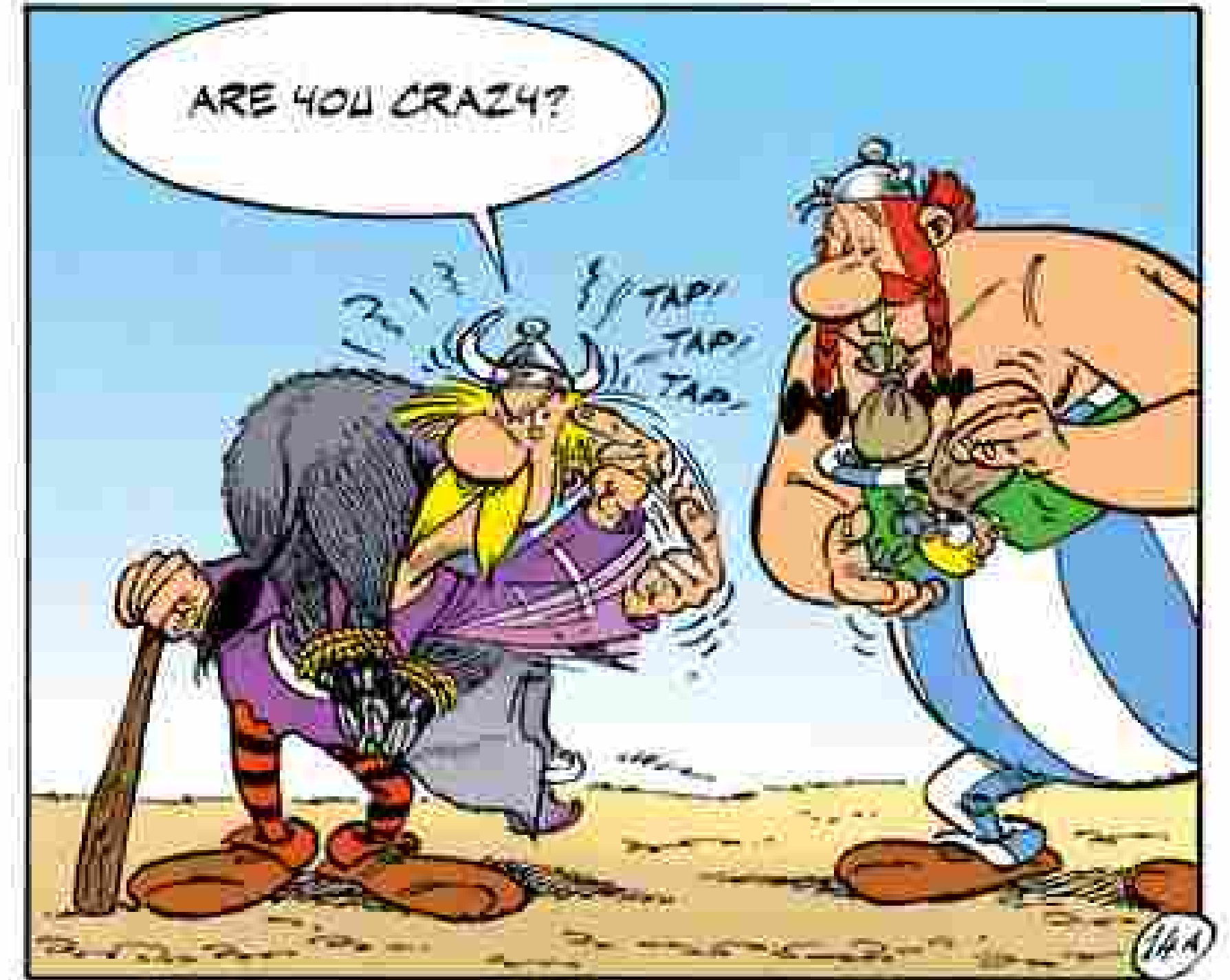
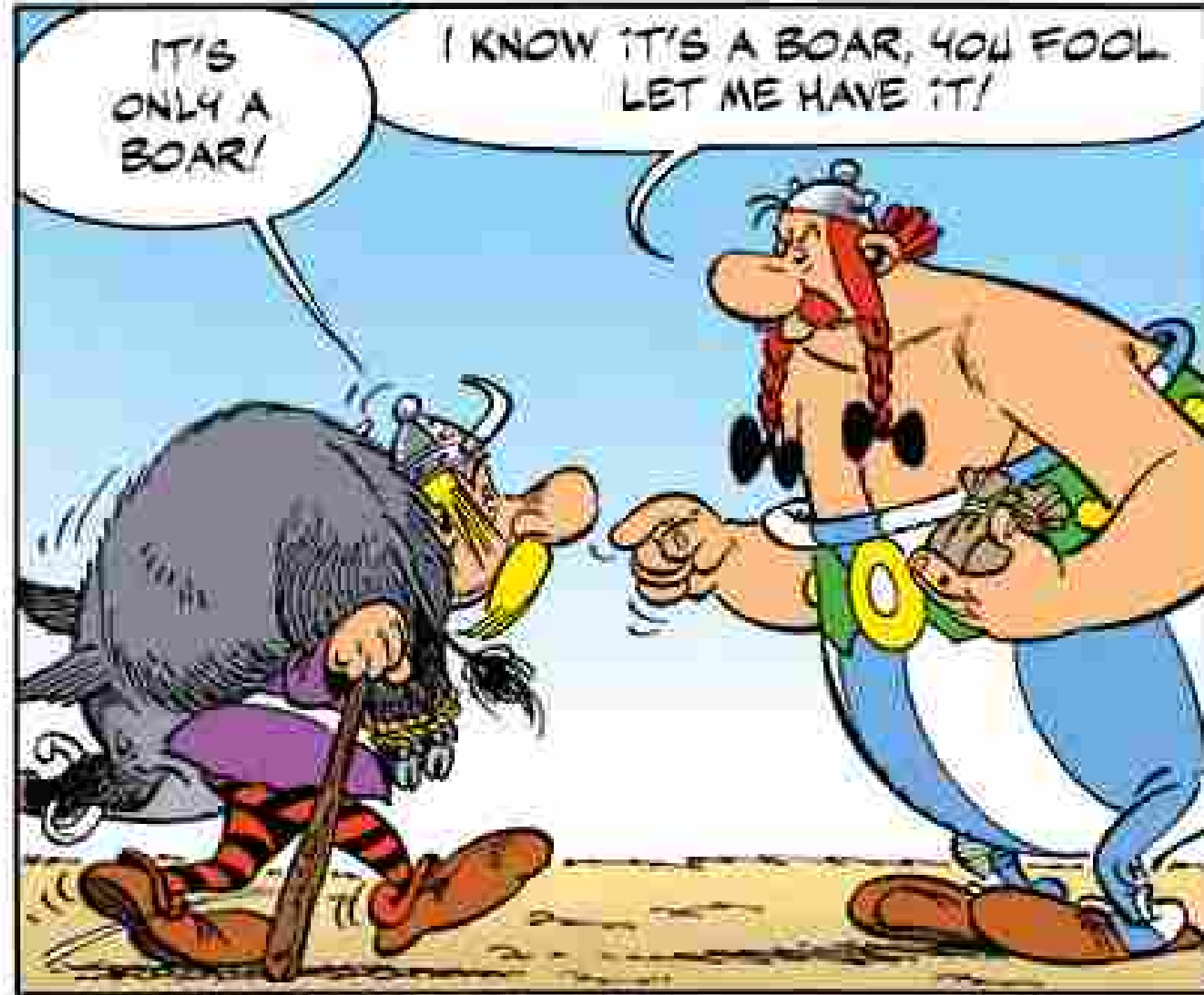
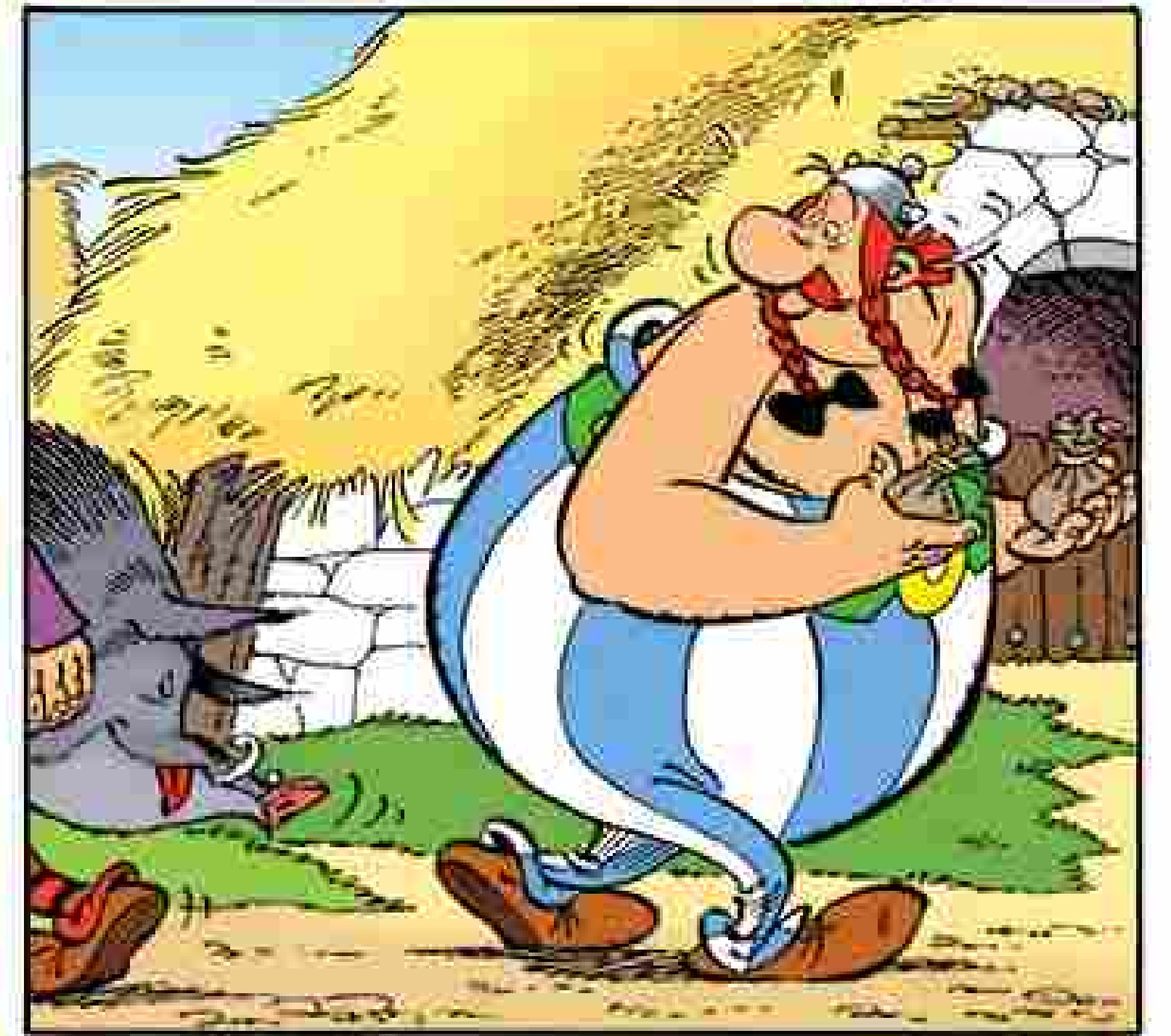
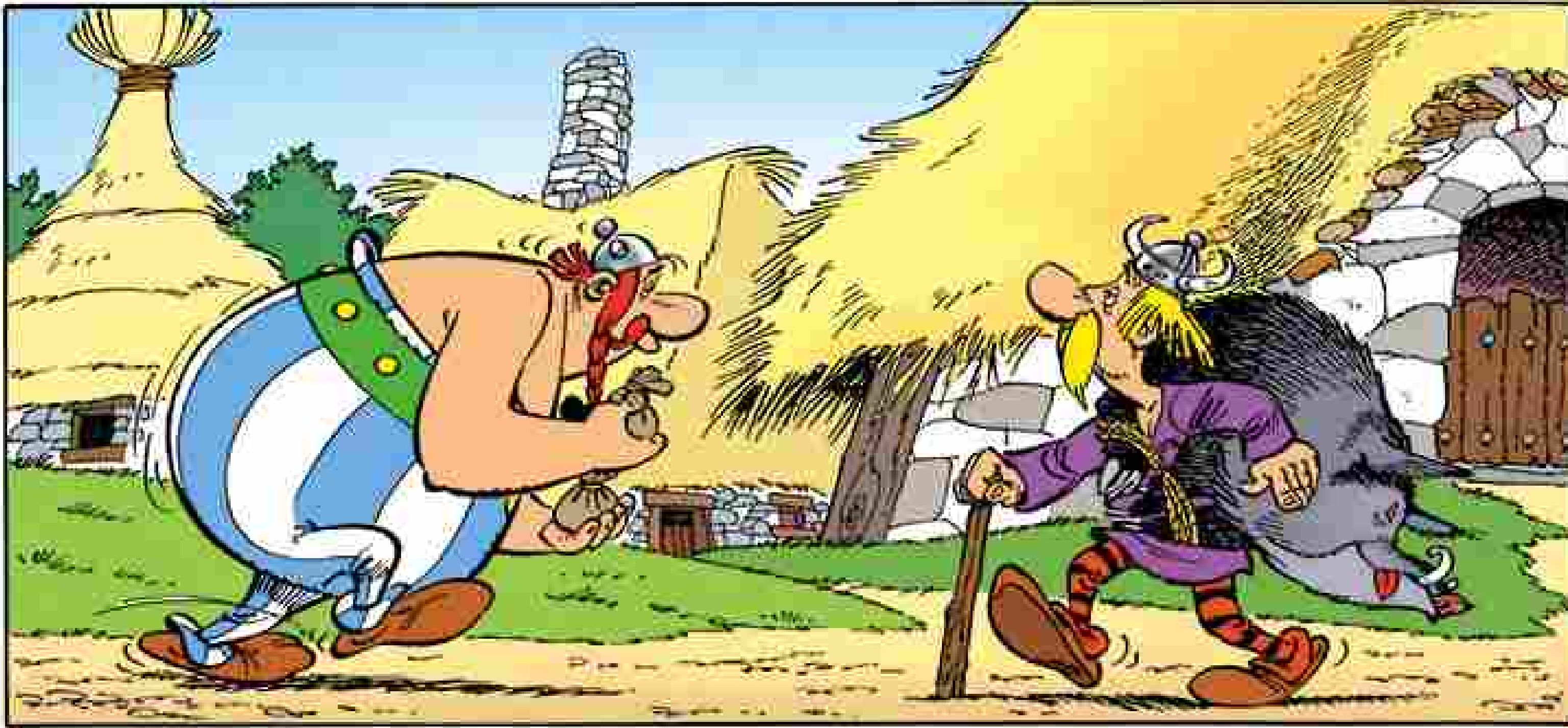


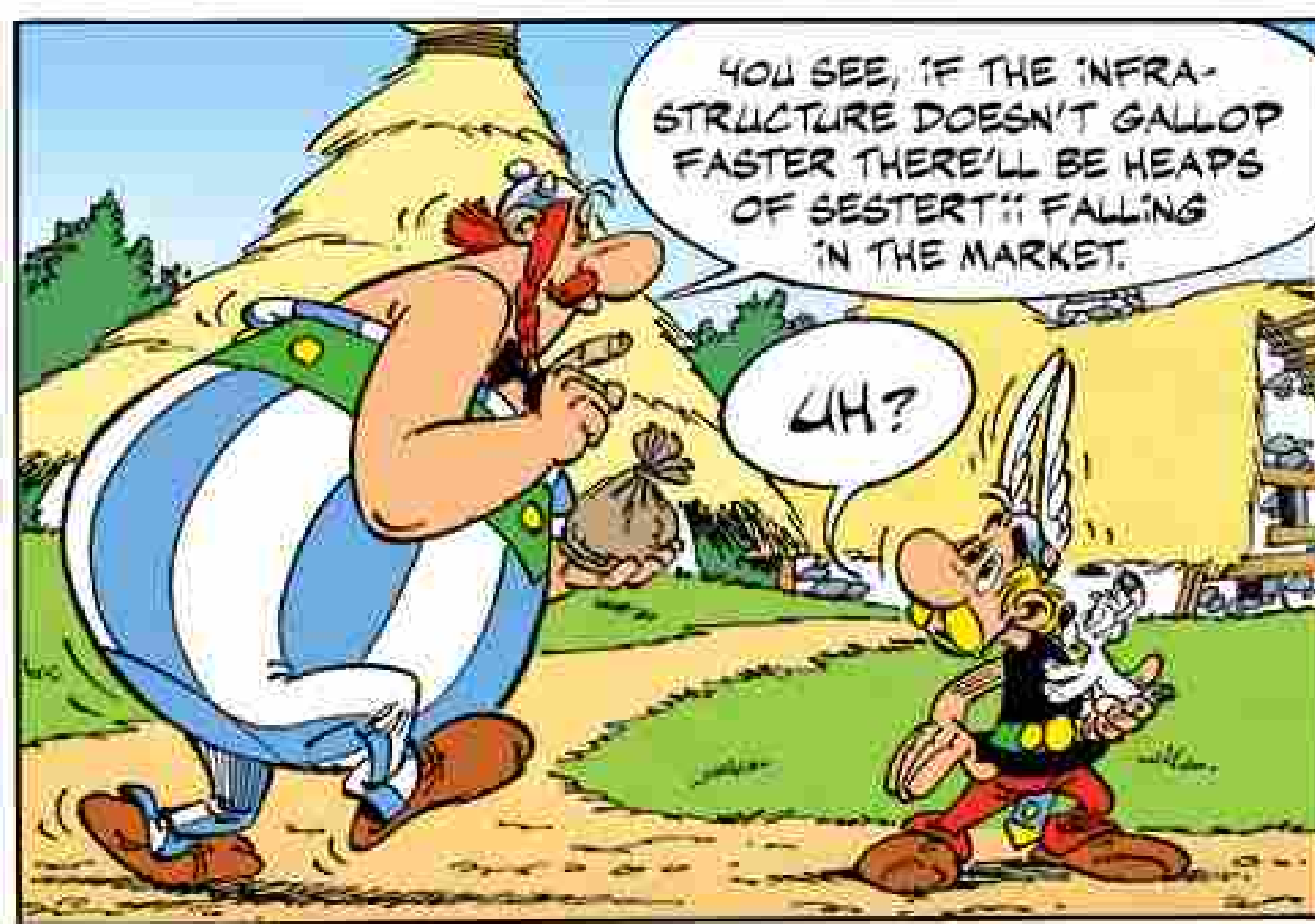
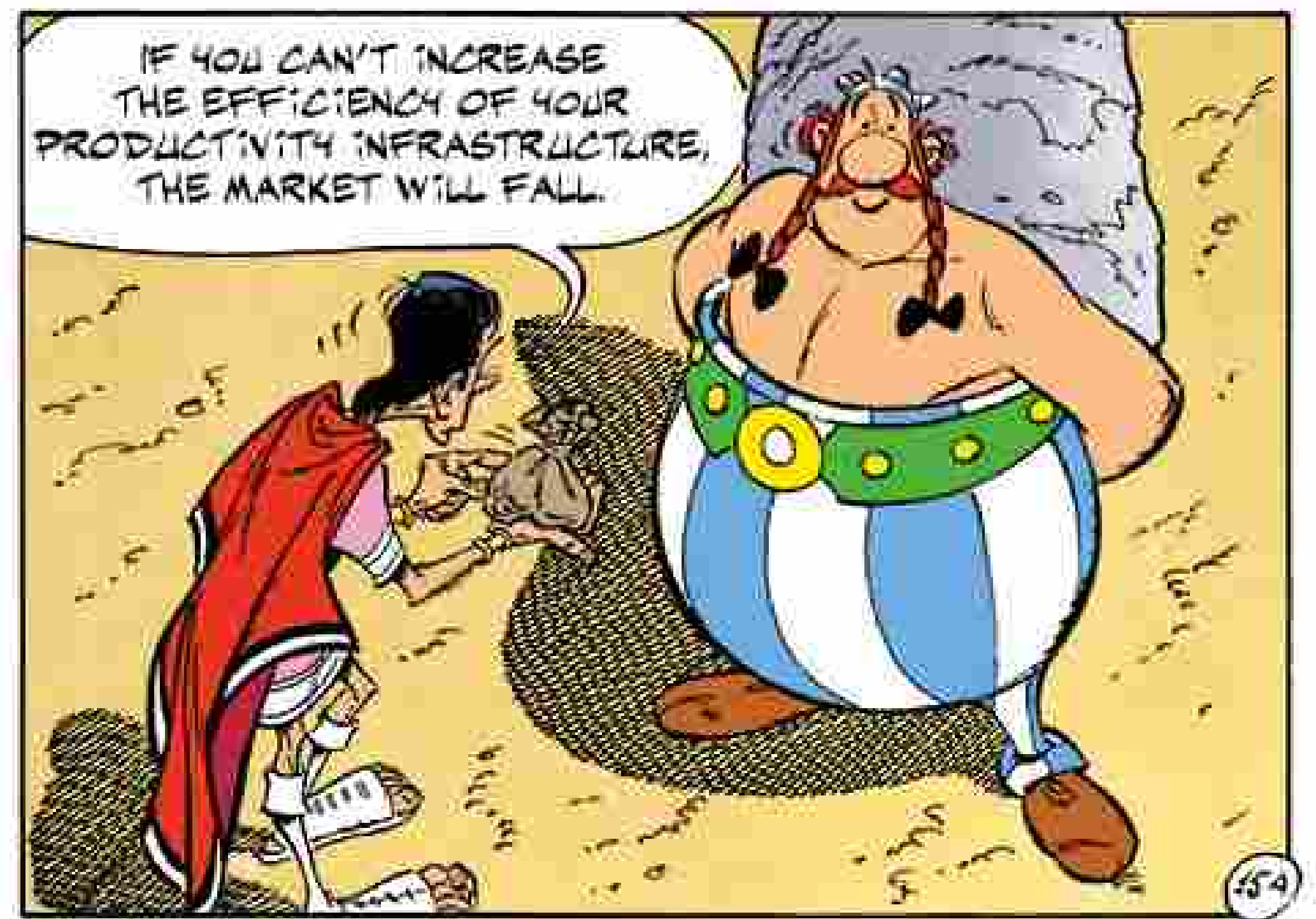
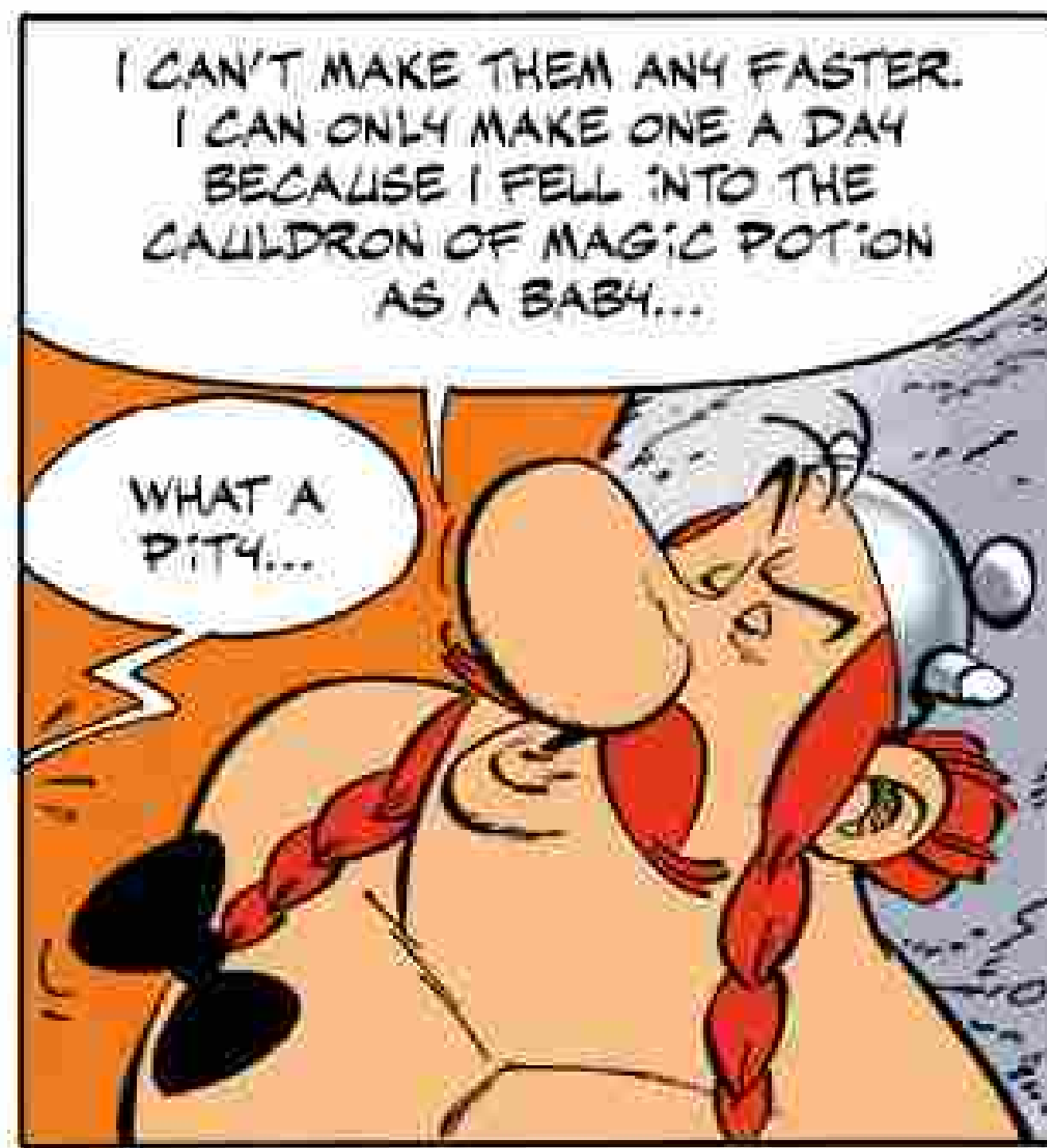
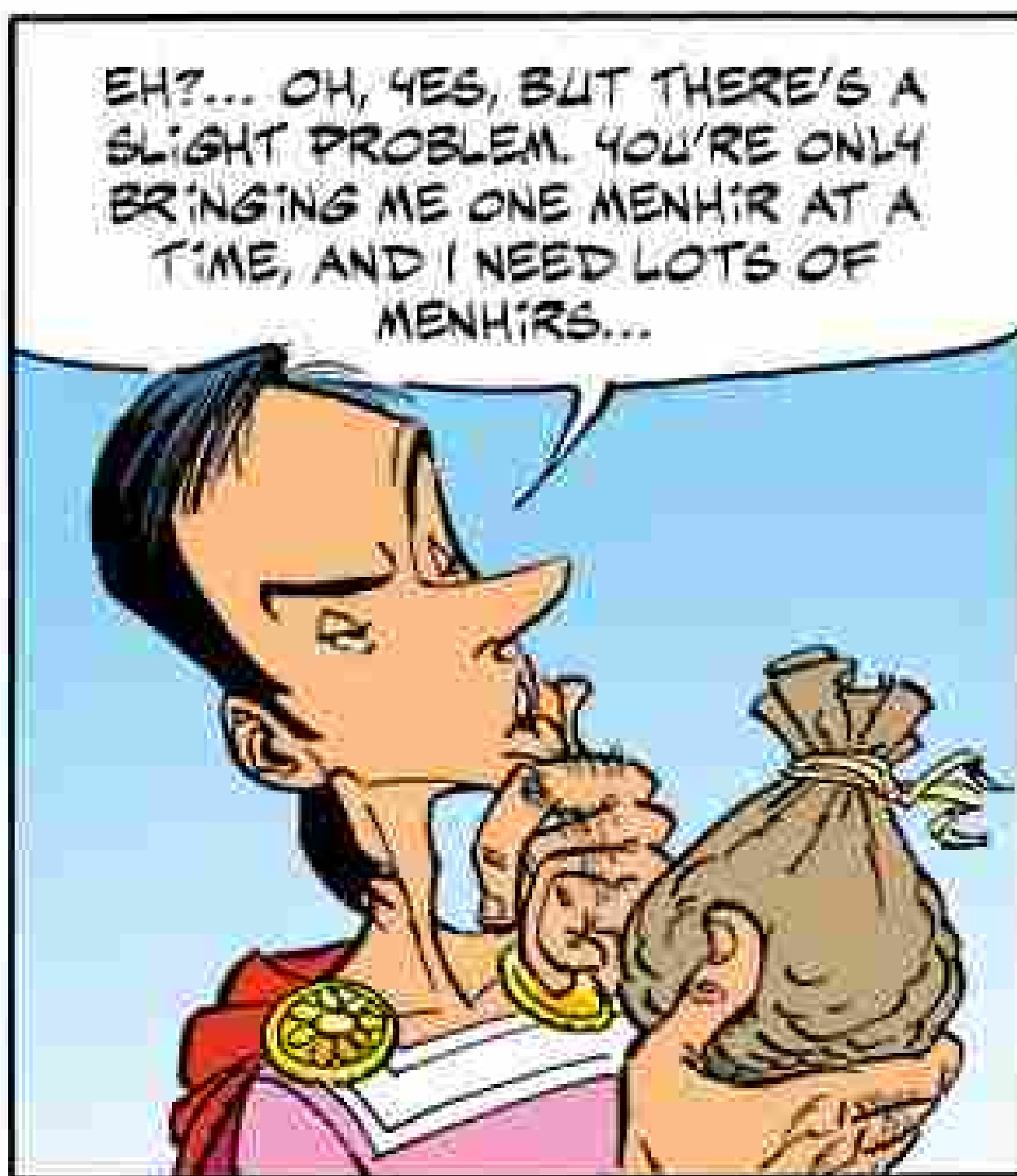
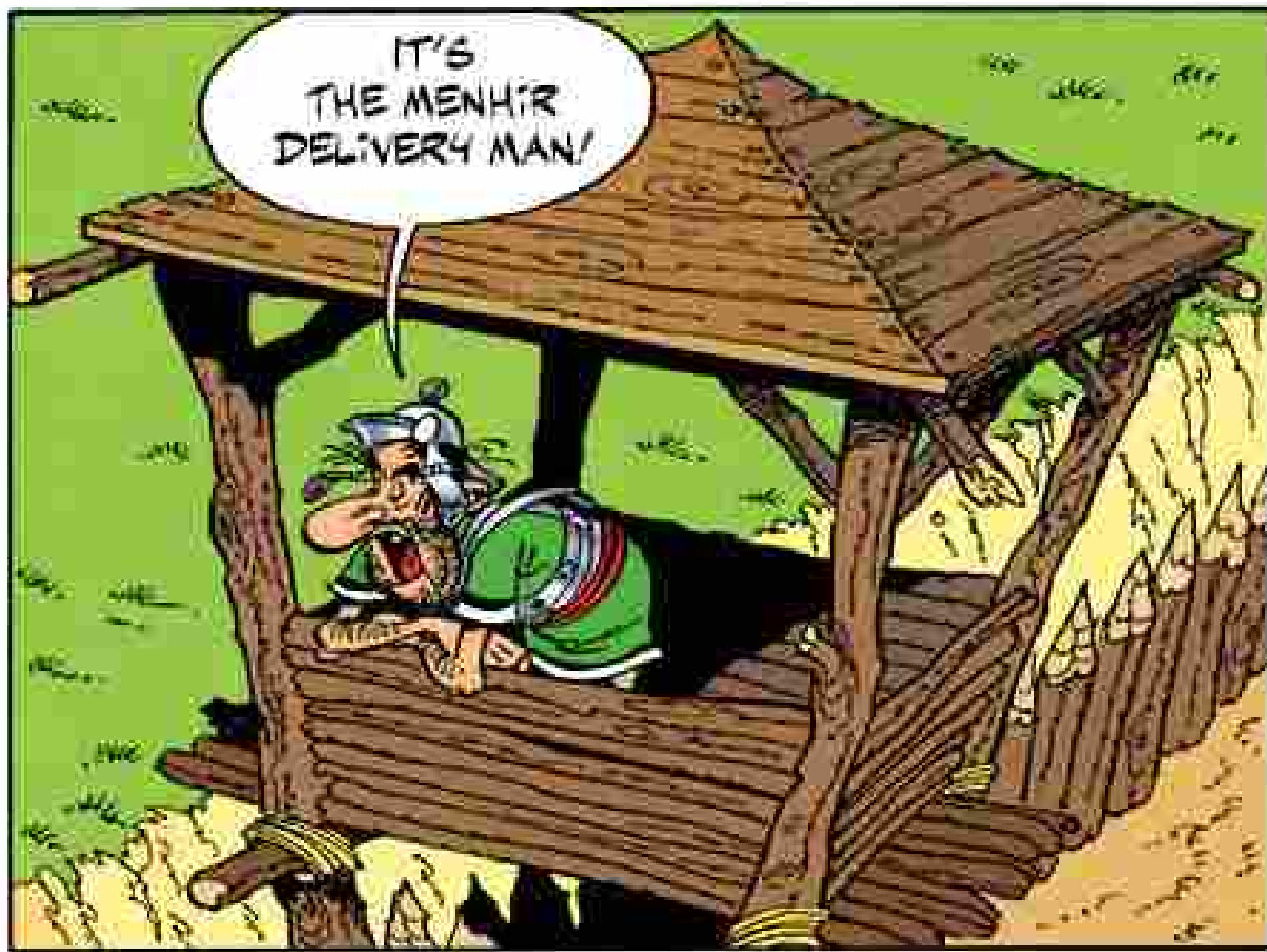


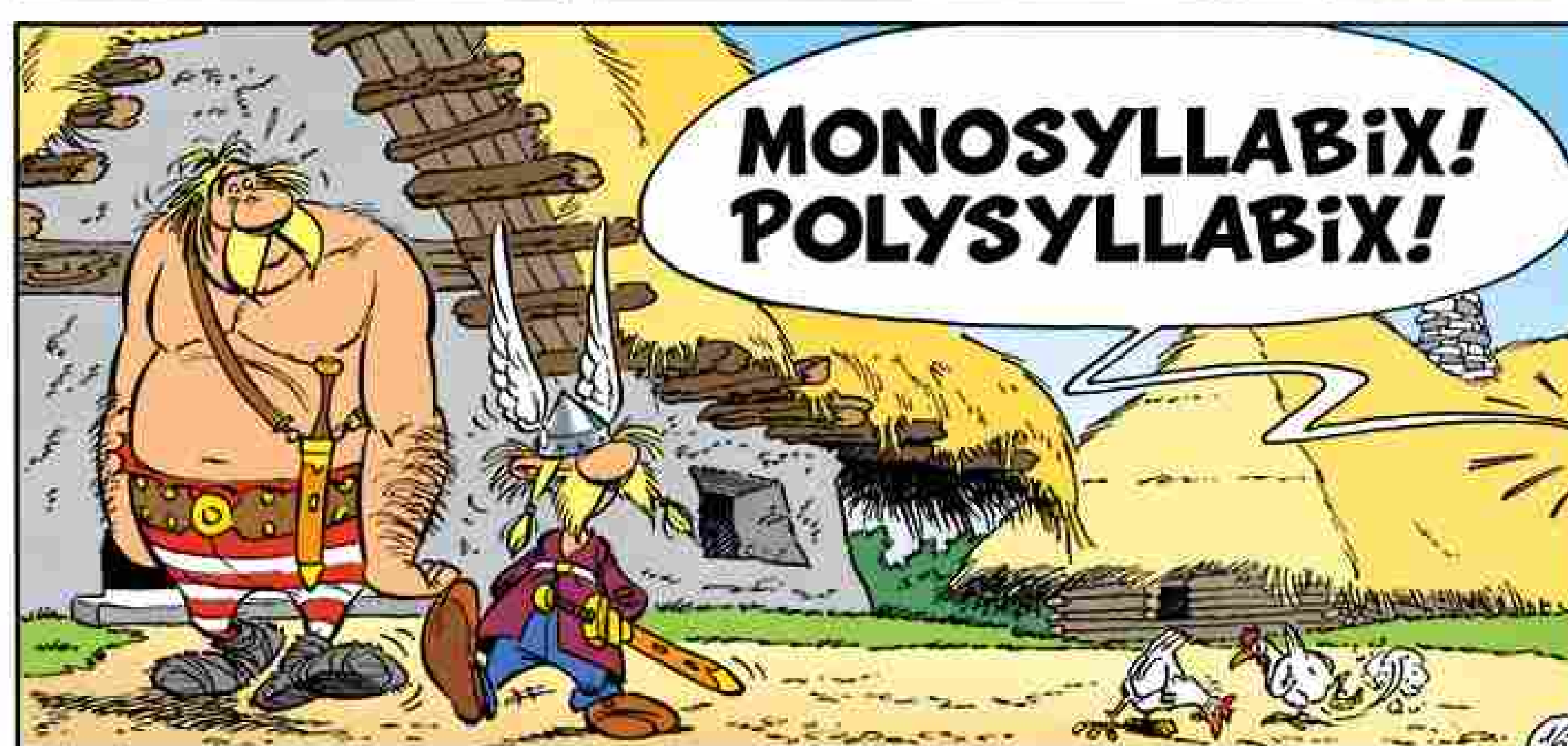
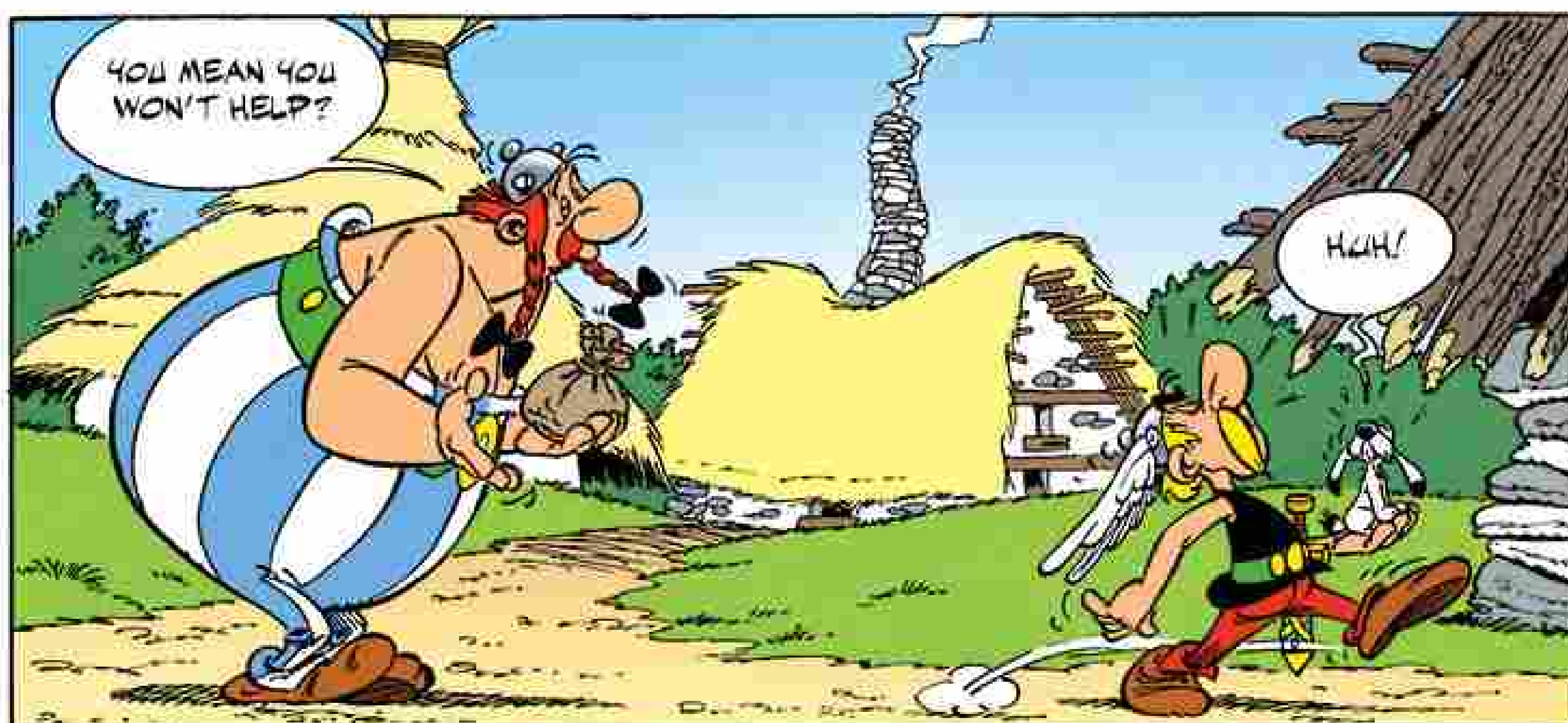


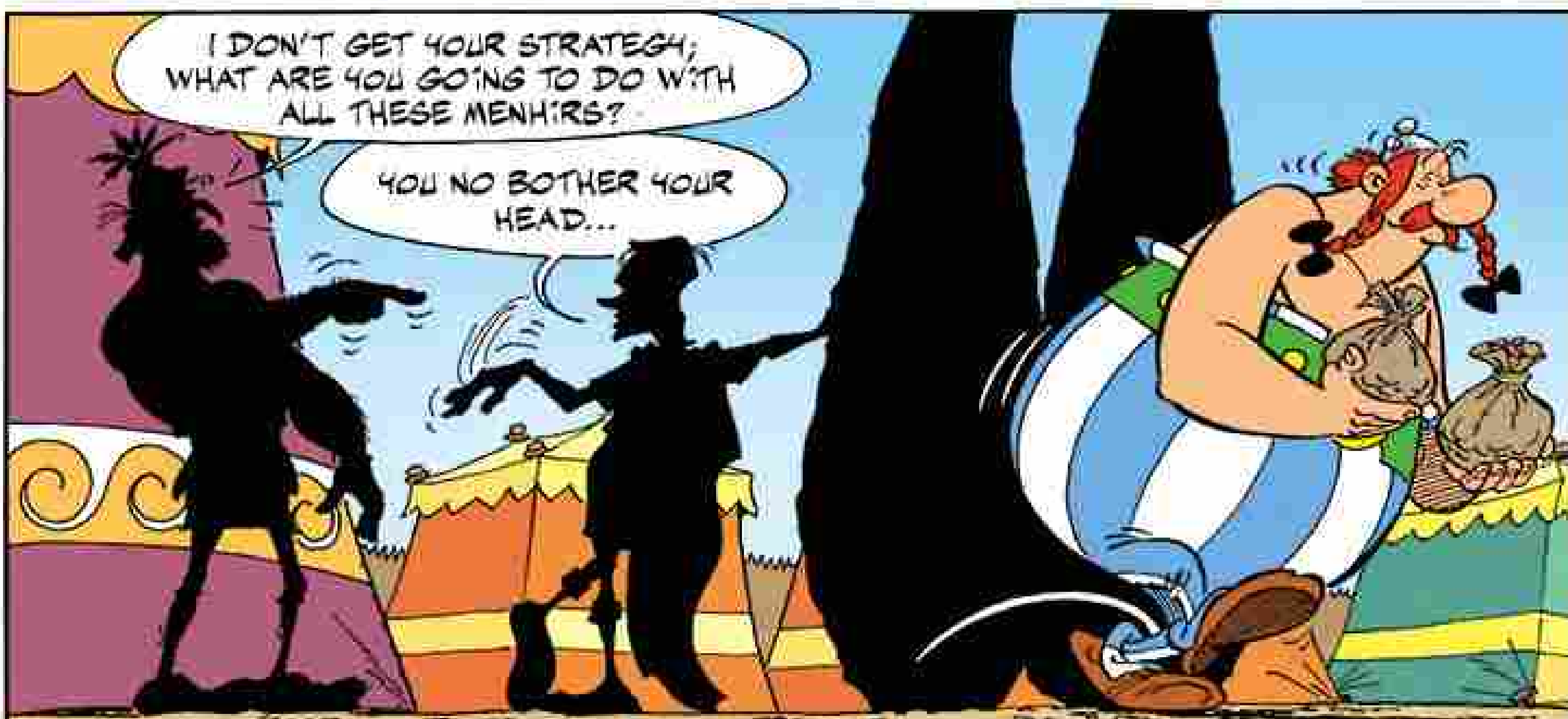
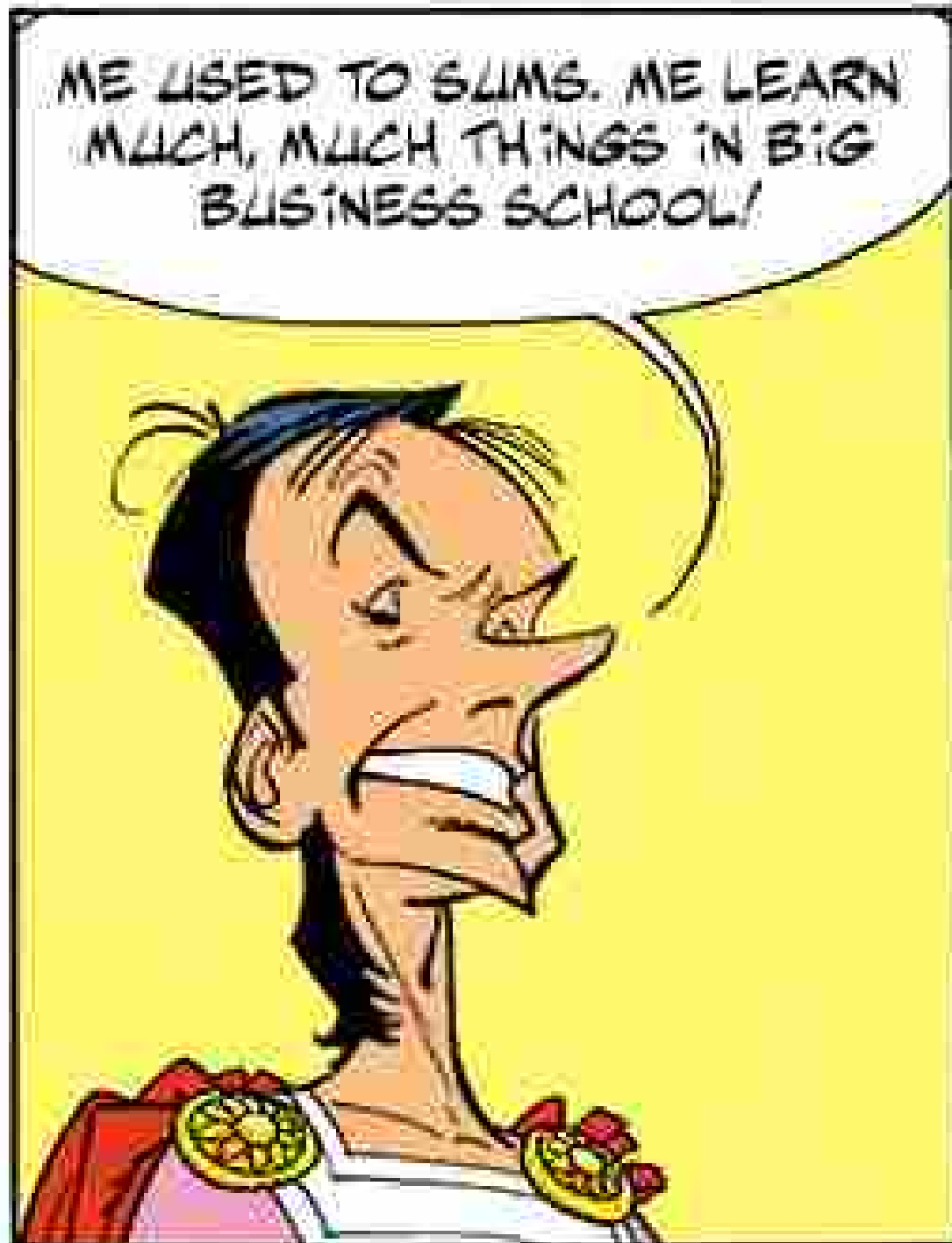


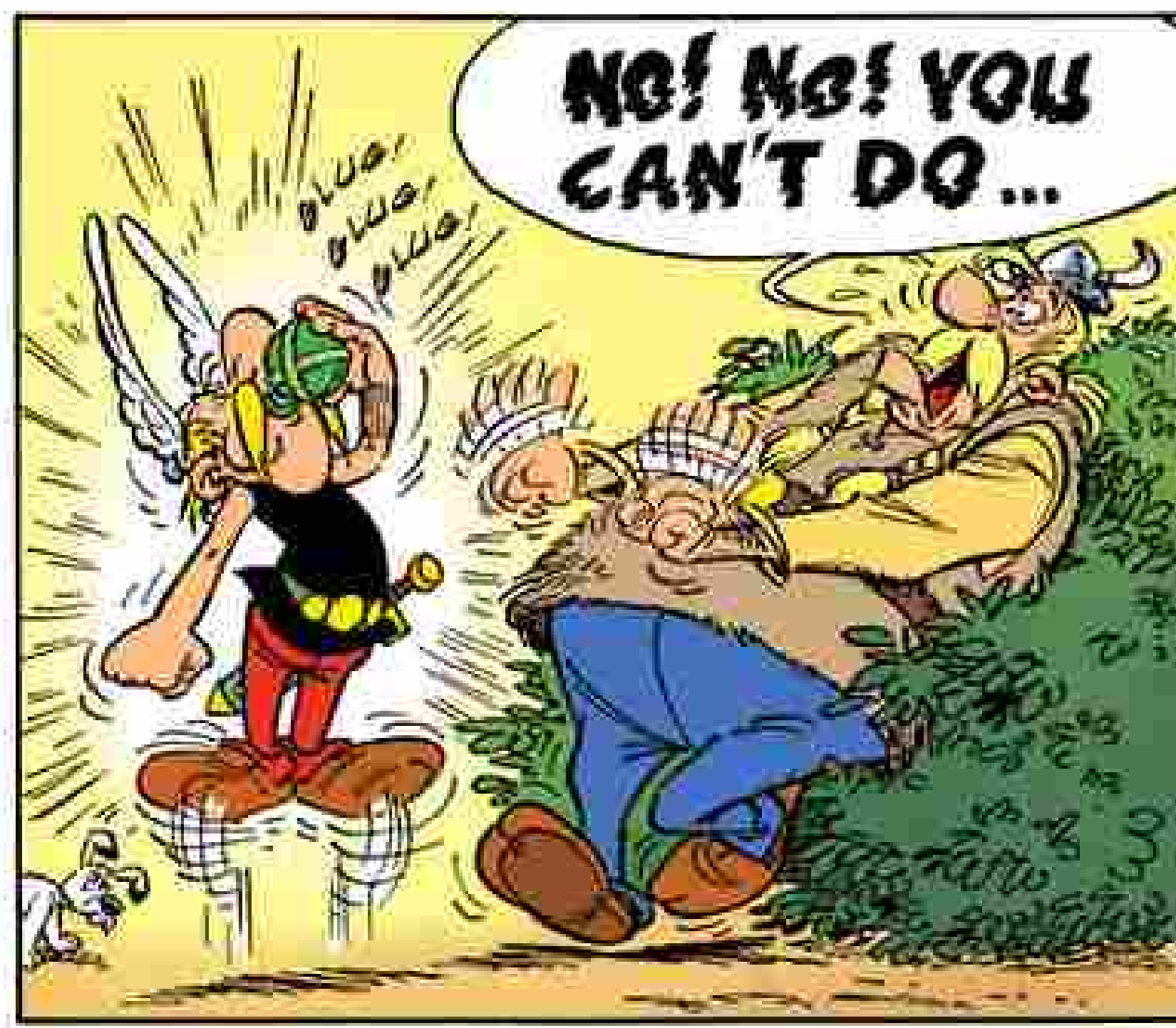
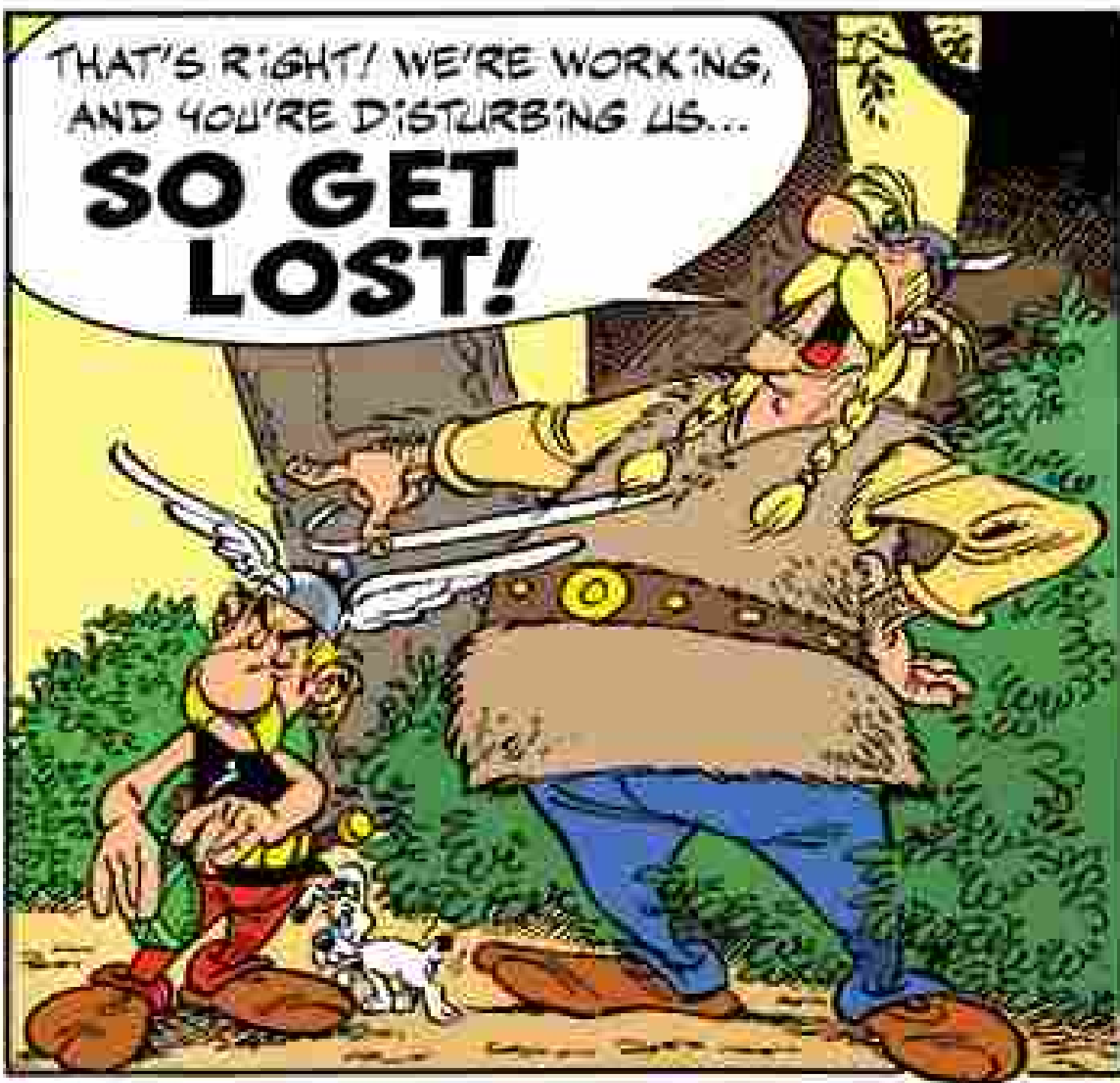
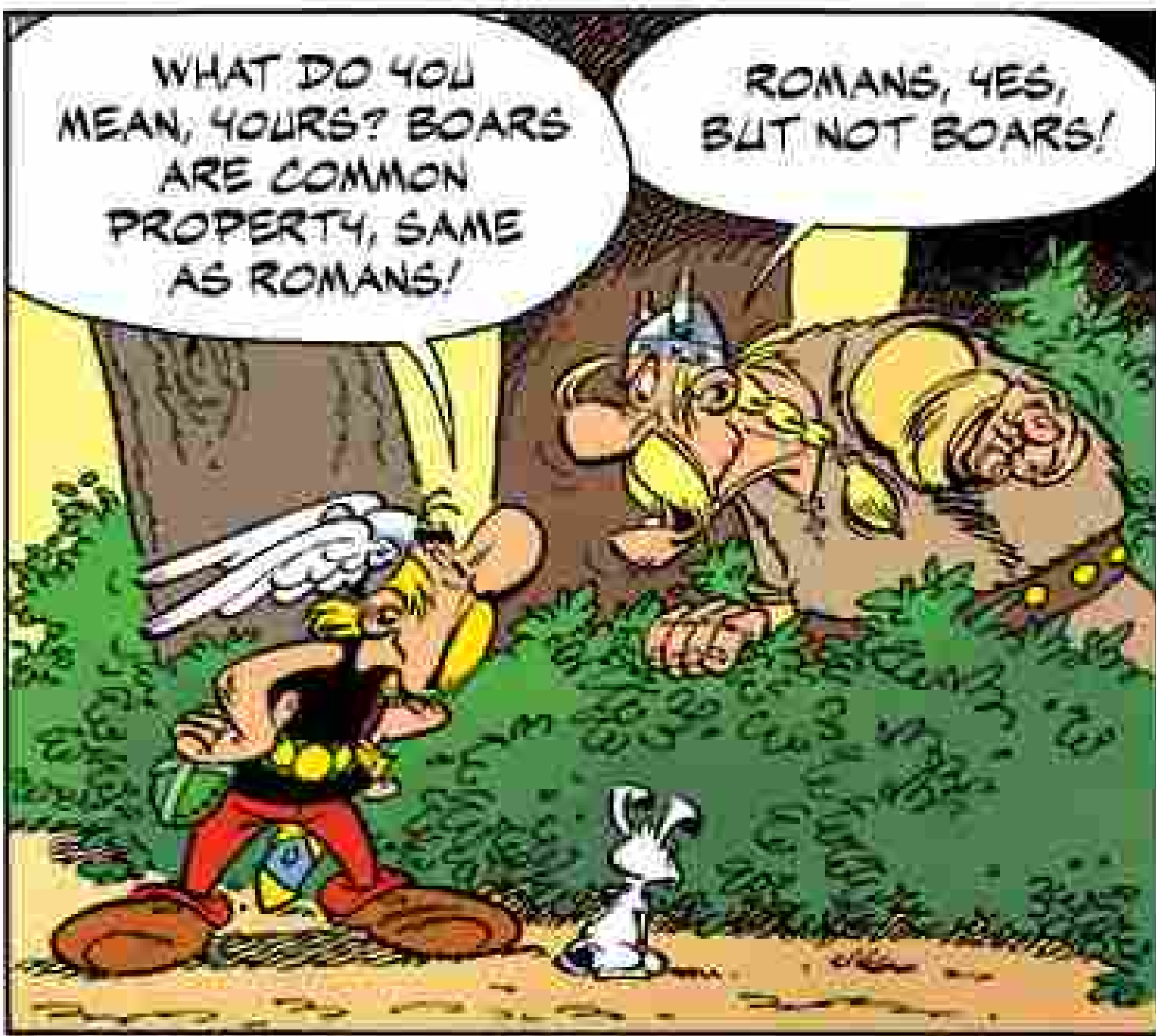
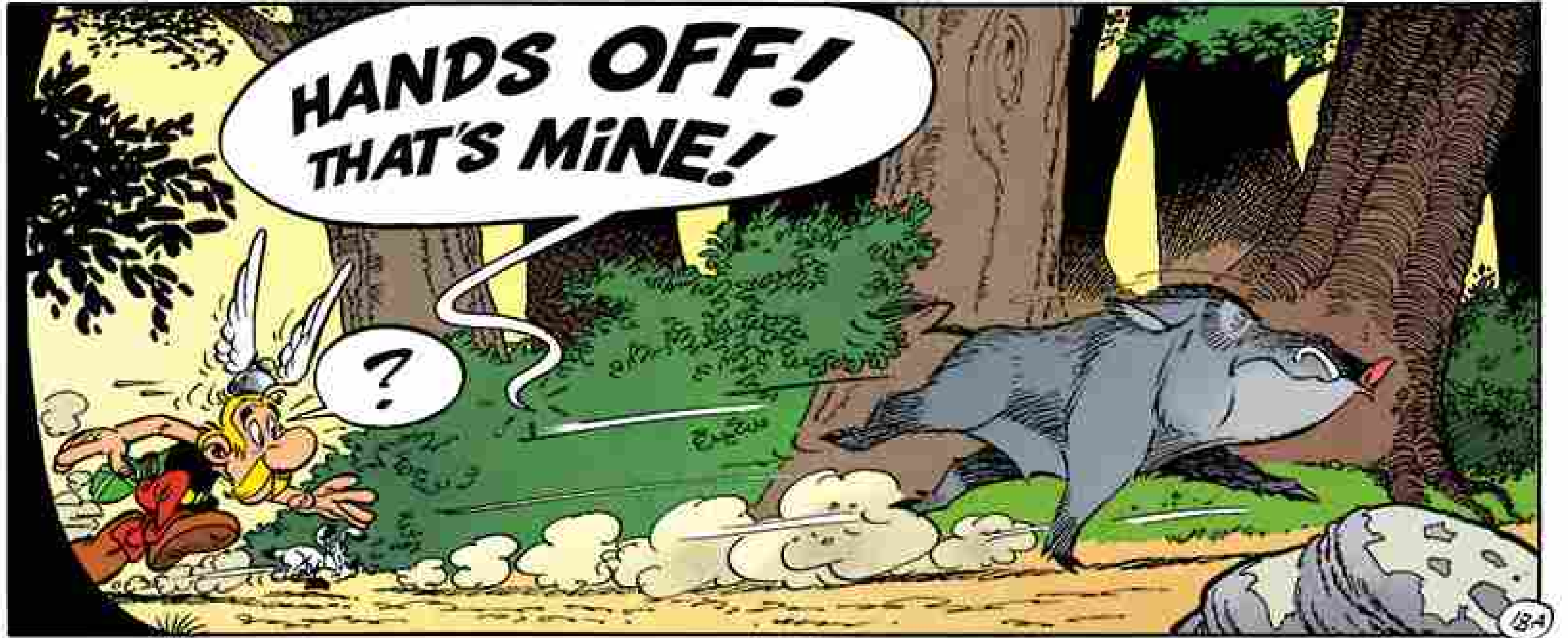
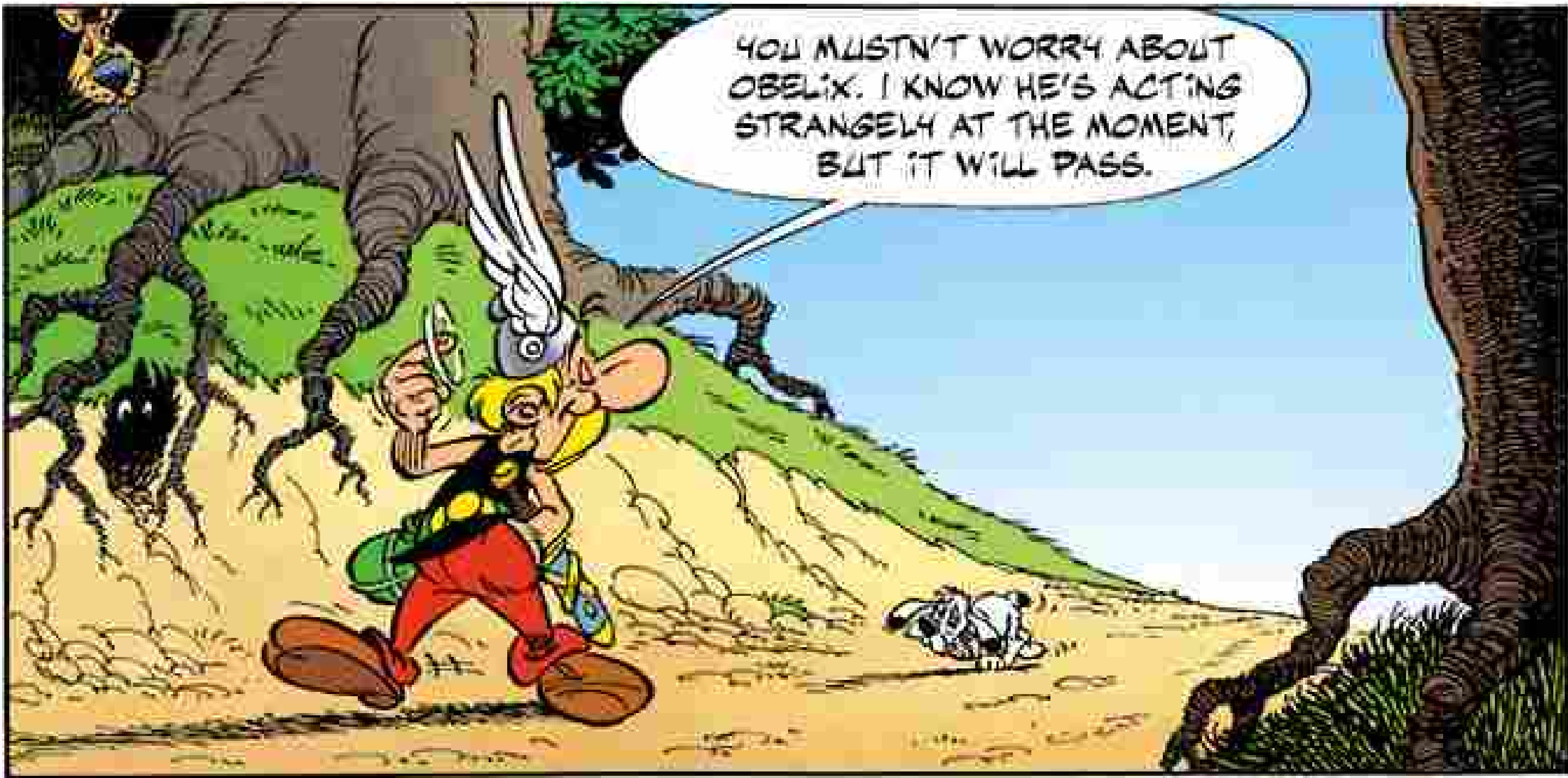


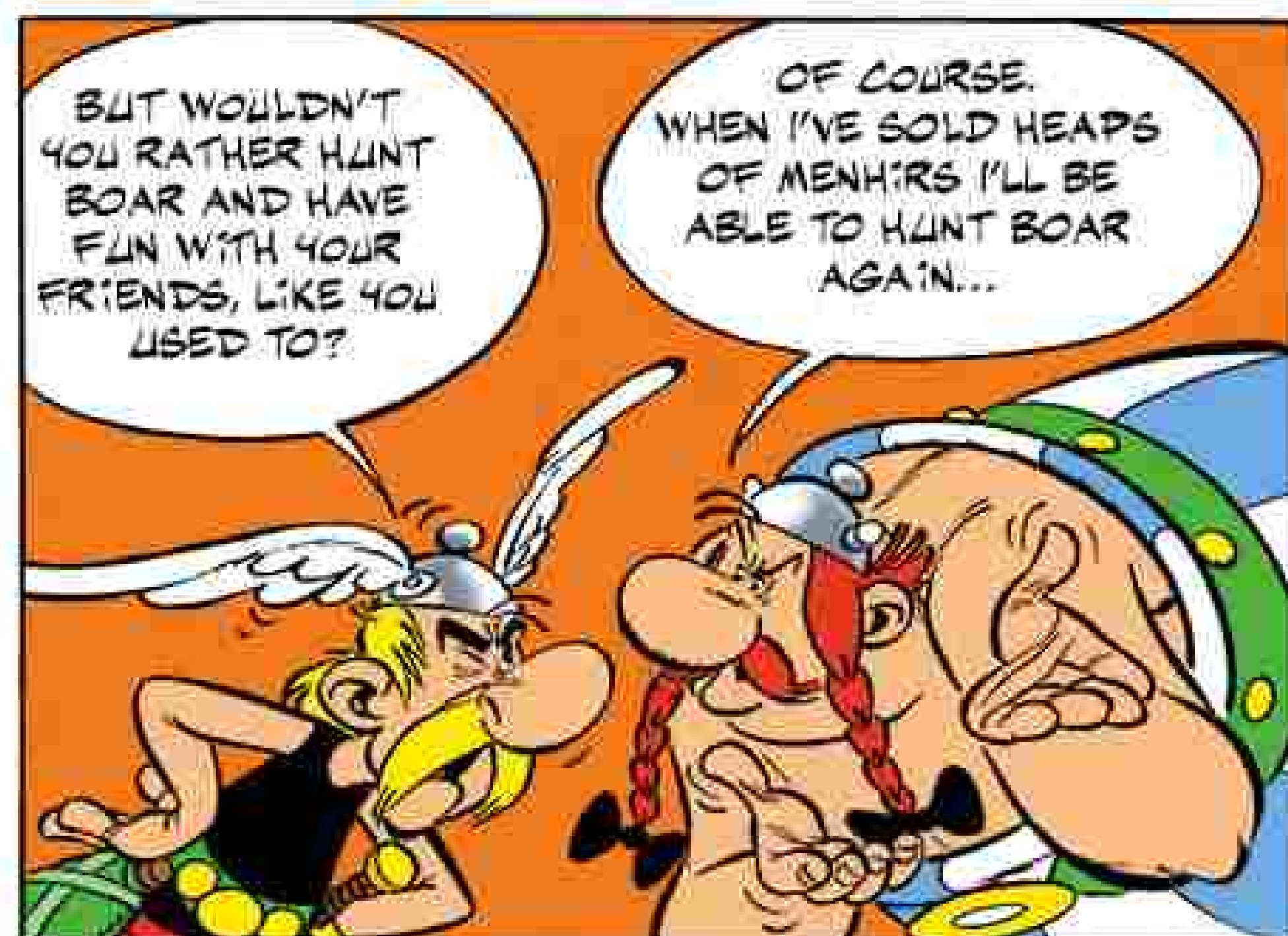
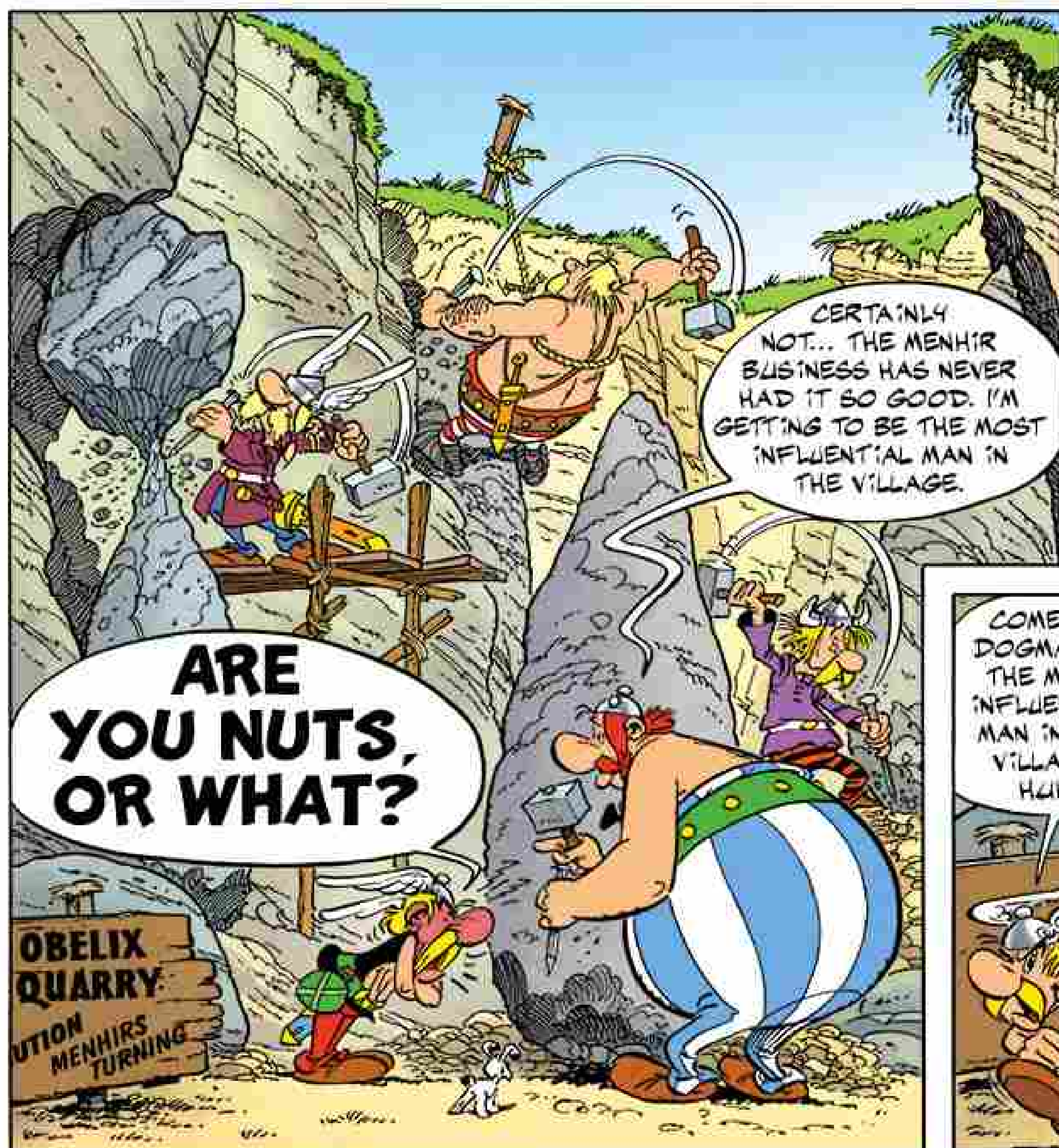
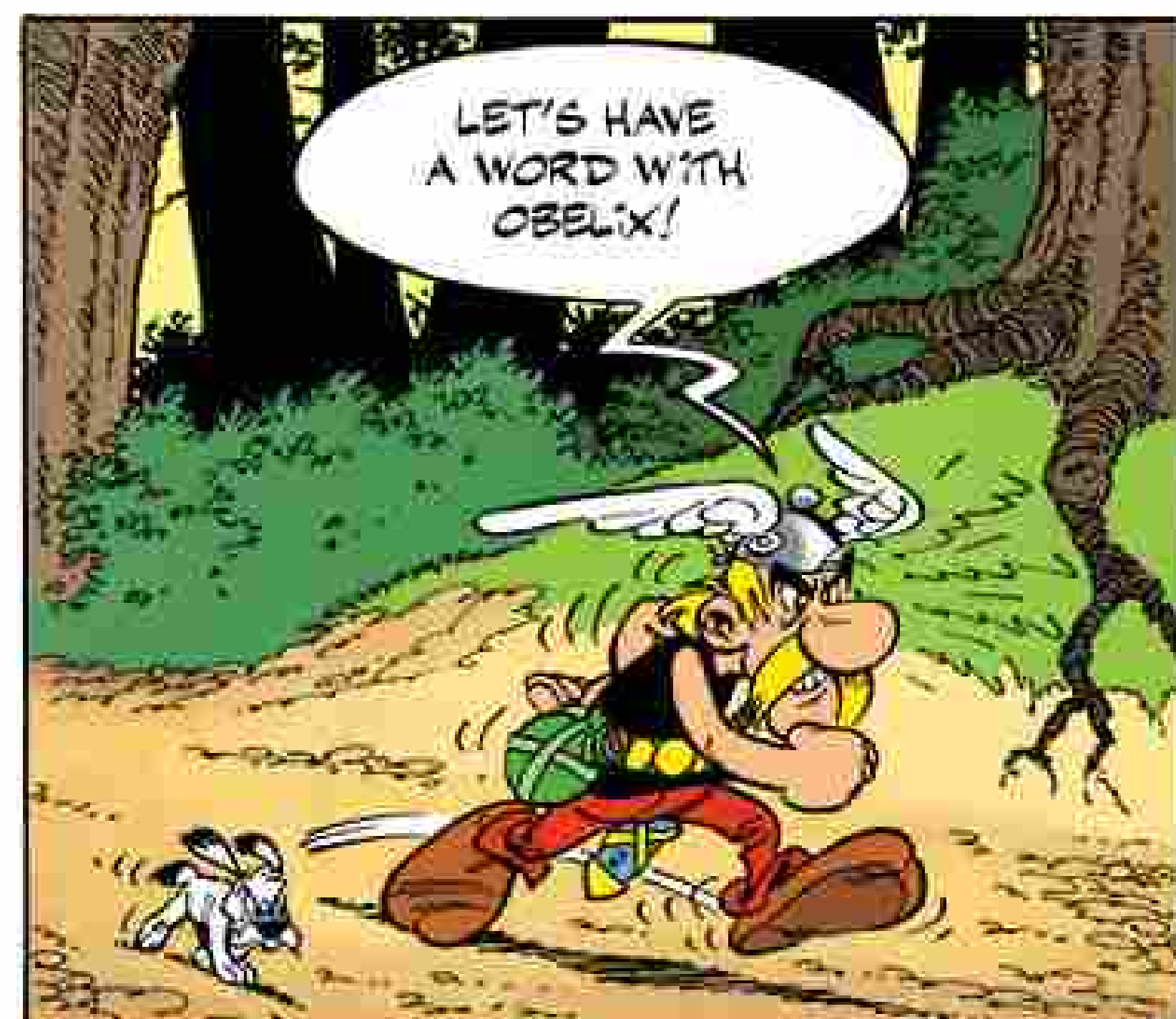
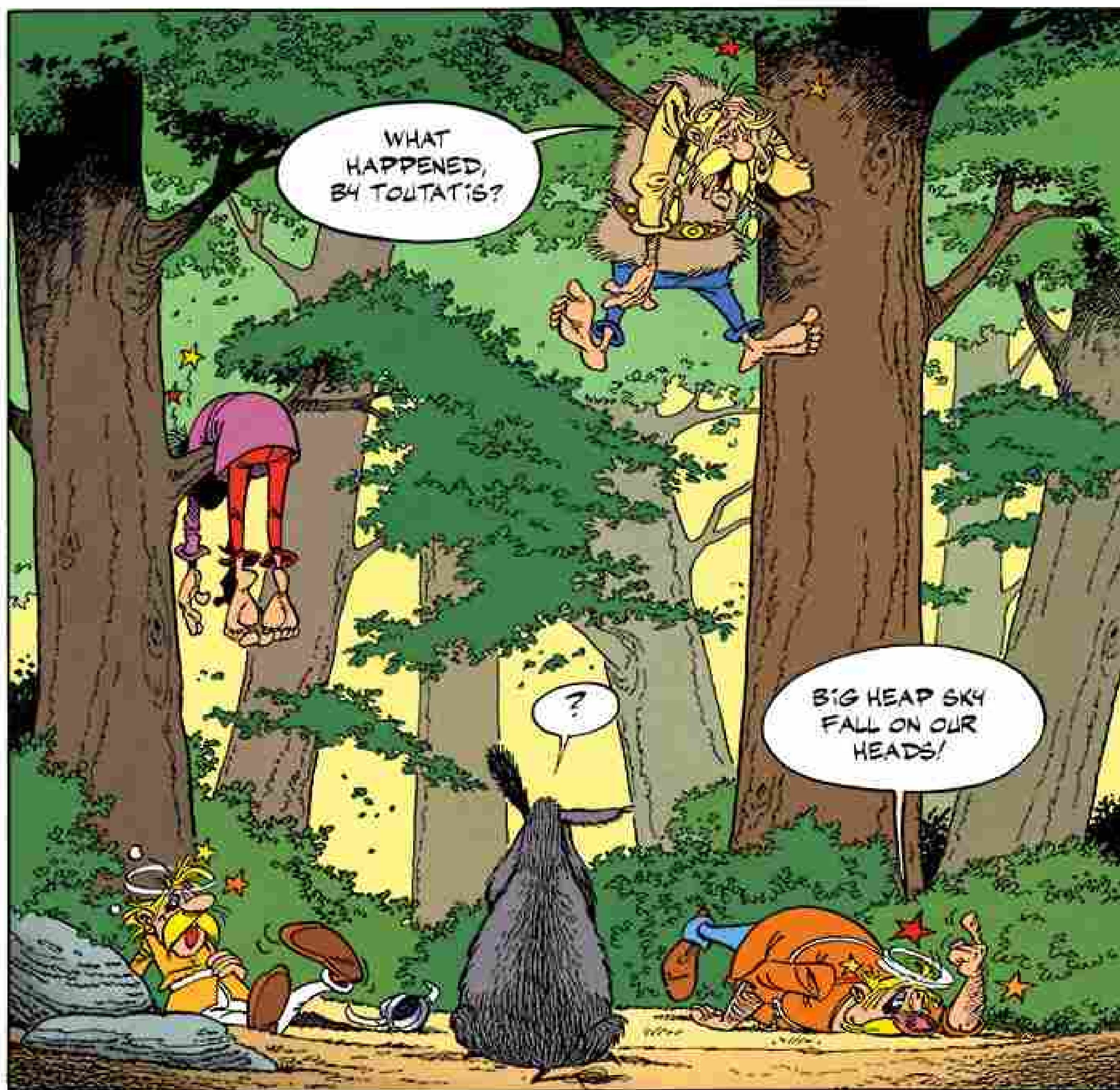


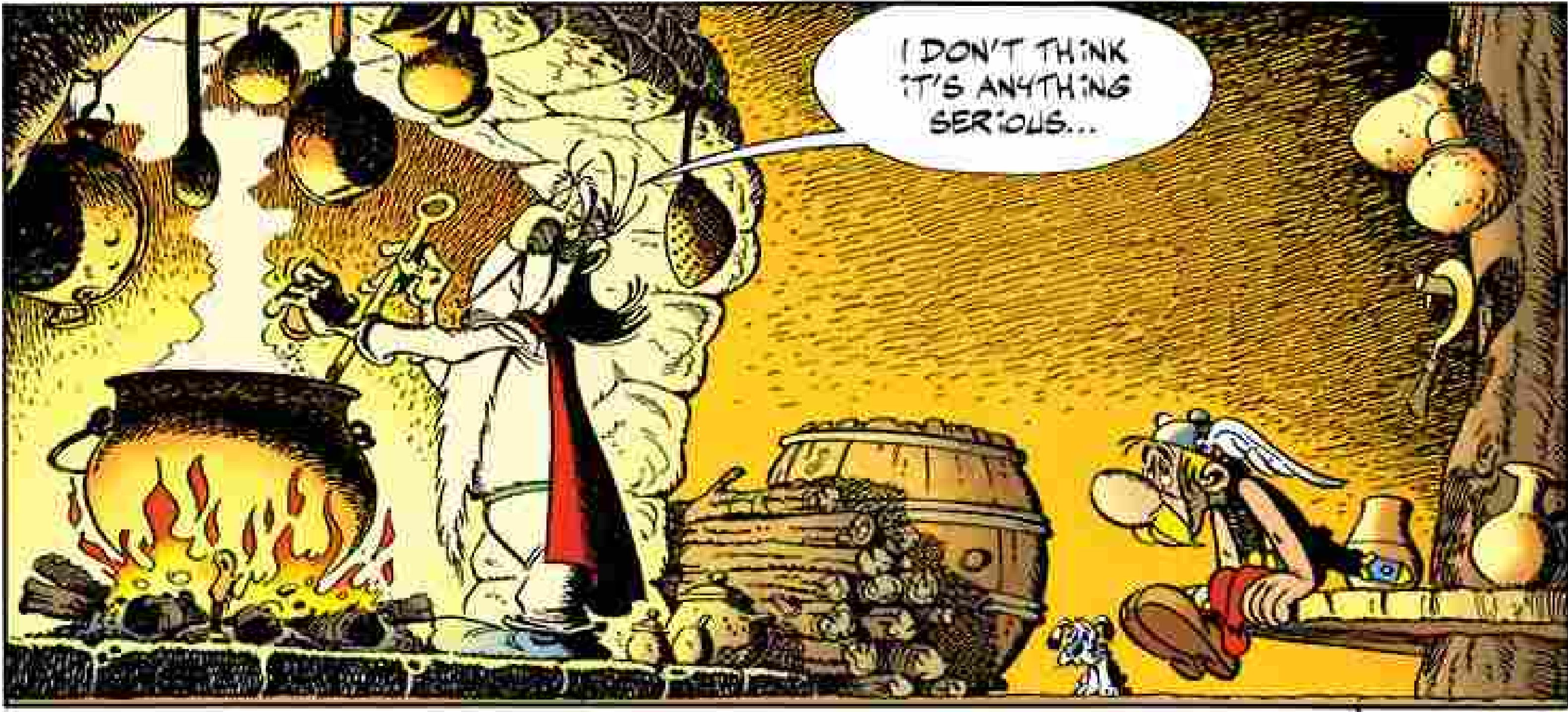












I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING SERIOUS...



BUT WHAT BOTHERS ME IS THIS SUDDEN PASSION THE ROMANS HAVE FOR MENHIRS...



NOT BAD GOING, BUT I MUST TALK TO YOU... I SUGGEST WE HAVE A WORKING LUNCH.



THAT'S LUCKY. SOMETHING SEEMS TO HAVE KEPT MY HUNTERS IN THE FOREST TODAY.



PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A DELIVERY PROBLEM. YOU NEED TO STEP UP THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS.

UH?



SORRY, I FORGOT... YOU NOT BRING PLENTY MENHIRS ALL ONE TIME. YOU BRING MORE MENHIRS QUICK QUICK!



ME NOT FIND PLENTY DELIVERY MEN...

WELL, THINK THE PROBLEM OVER. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH AND HAVE ANOTHER WORKING LUNCH.



AND ANOTHER THING: YOU WANT TO START SPENDING YOUR SESTERTII. YOU NEED SOME SMARTER CLOTHES...

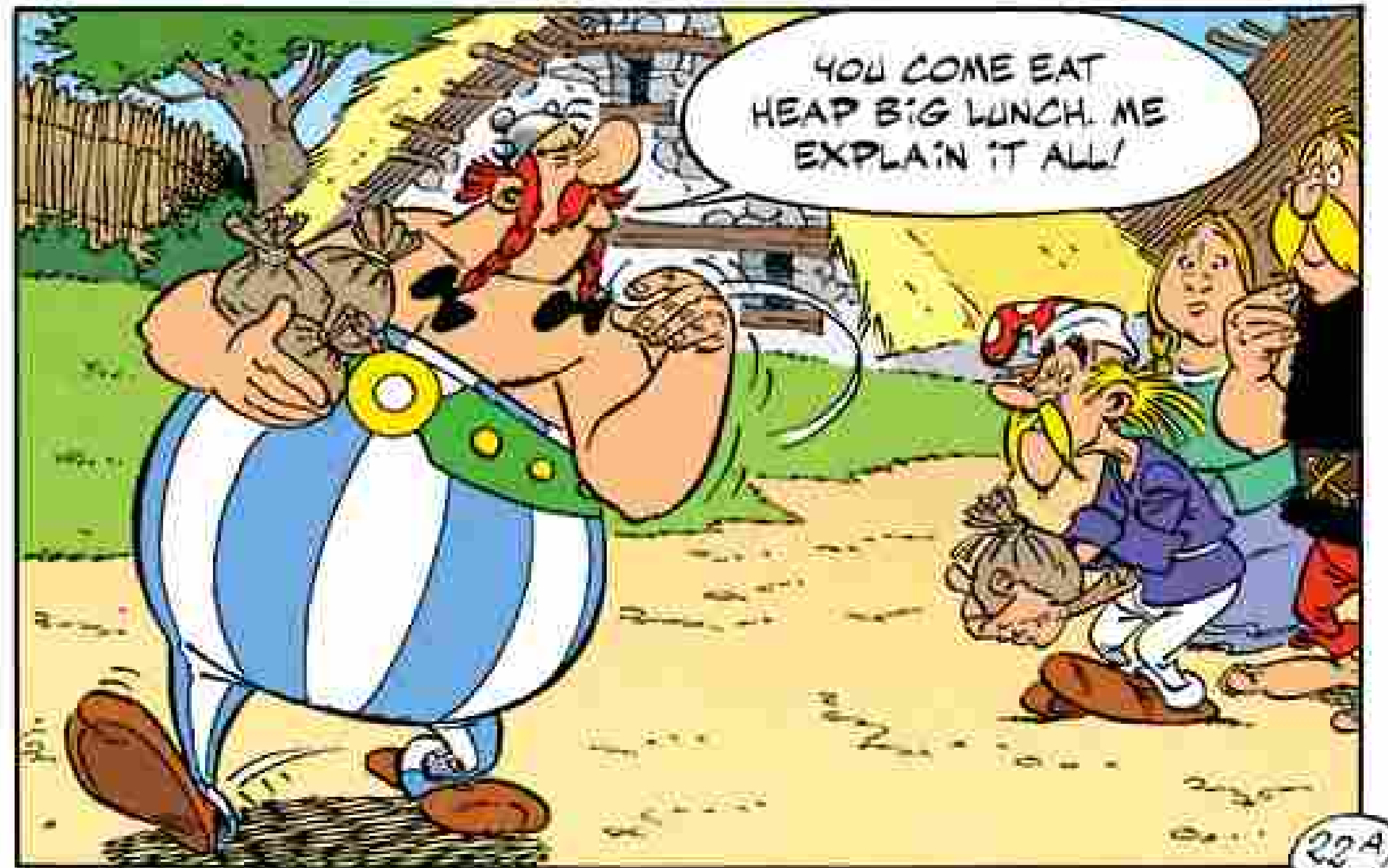


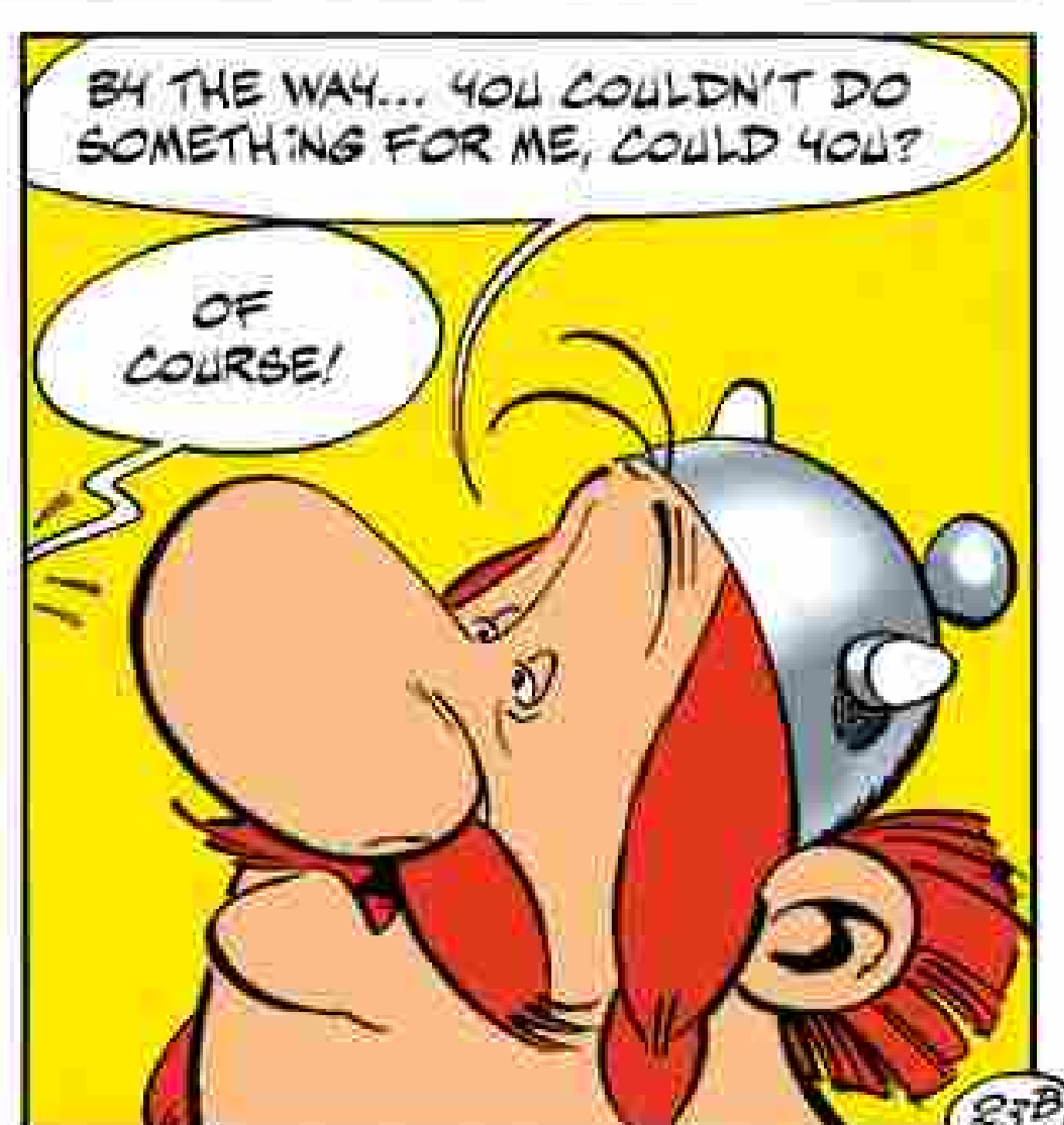
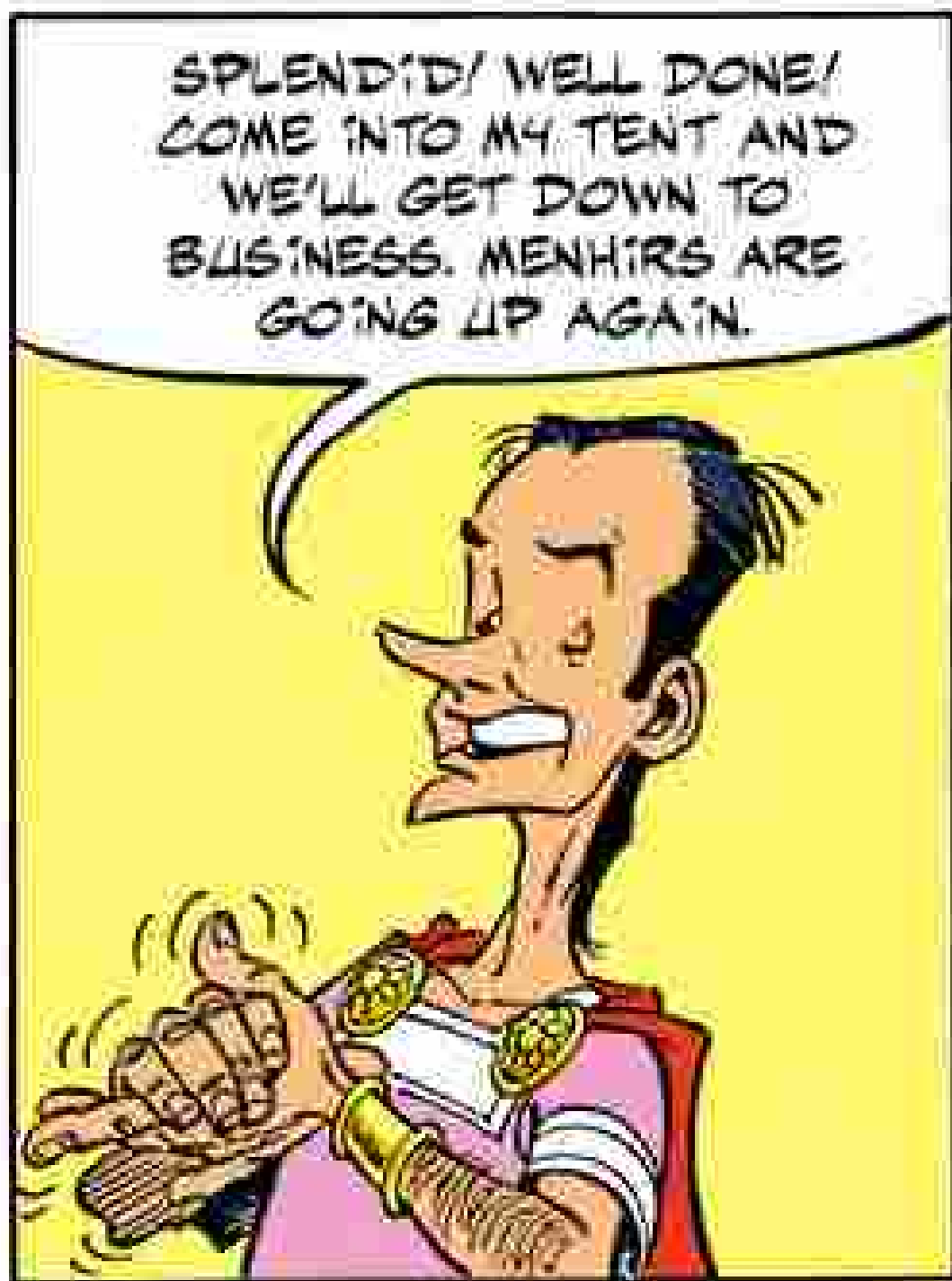
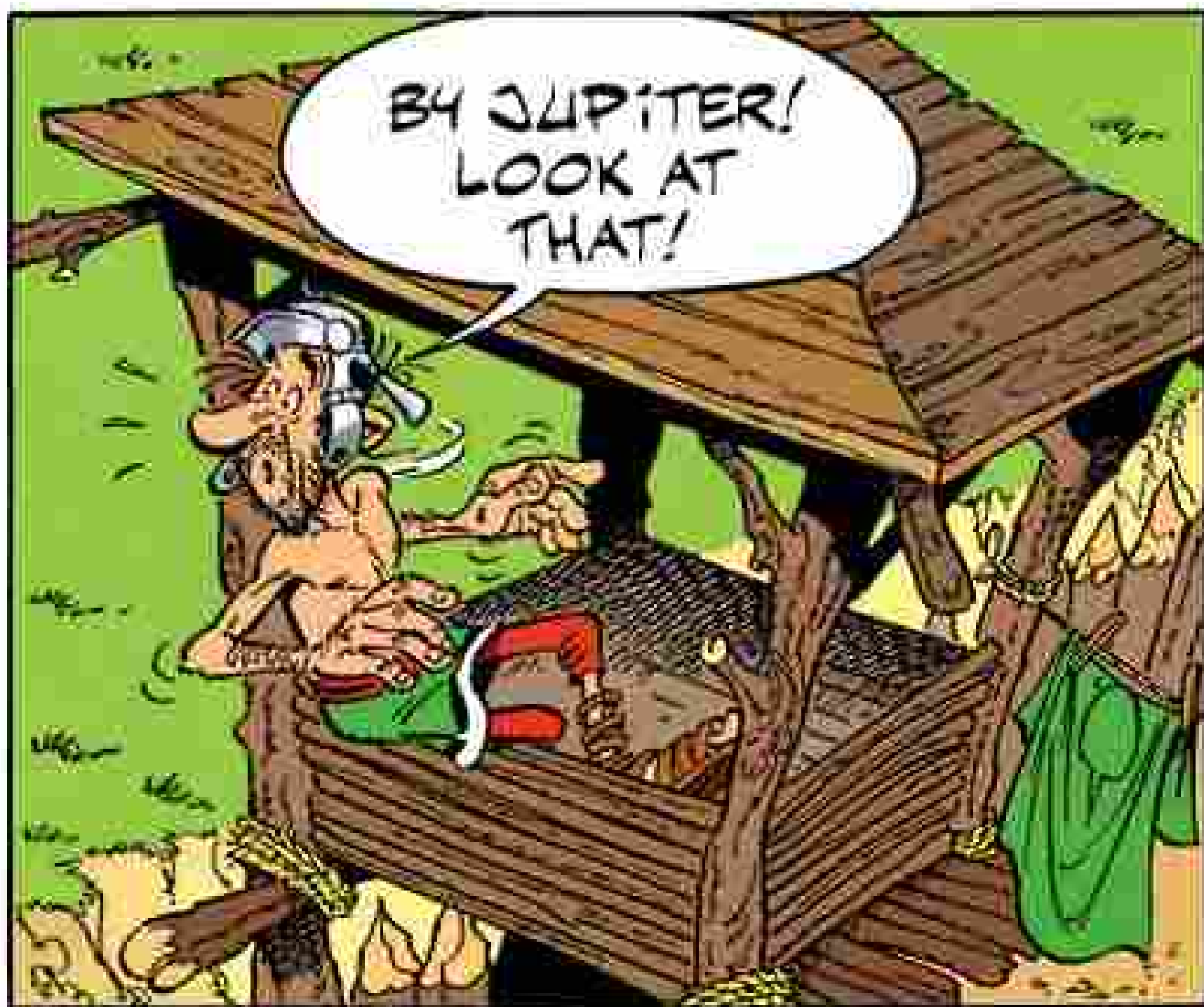
WHY? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY BREECHES?

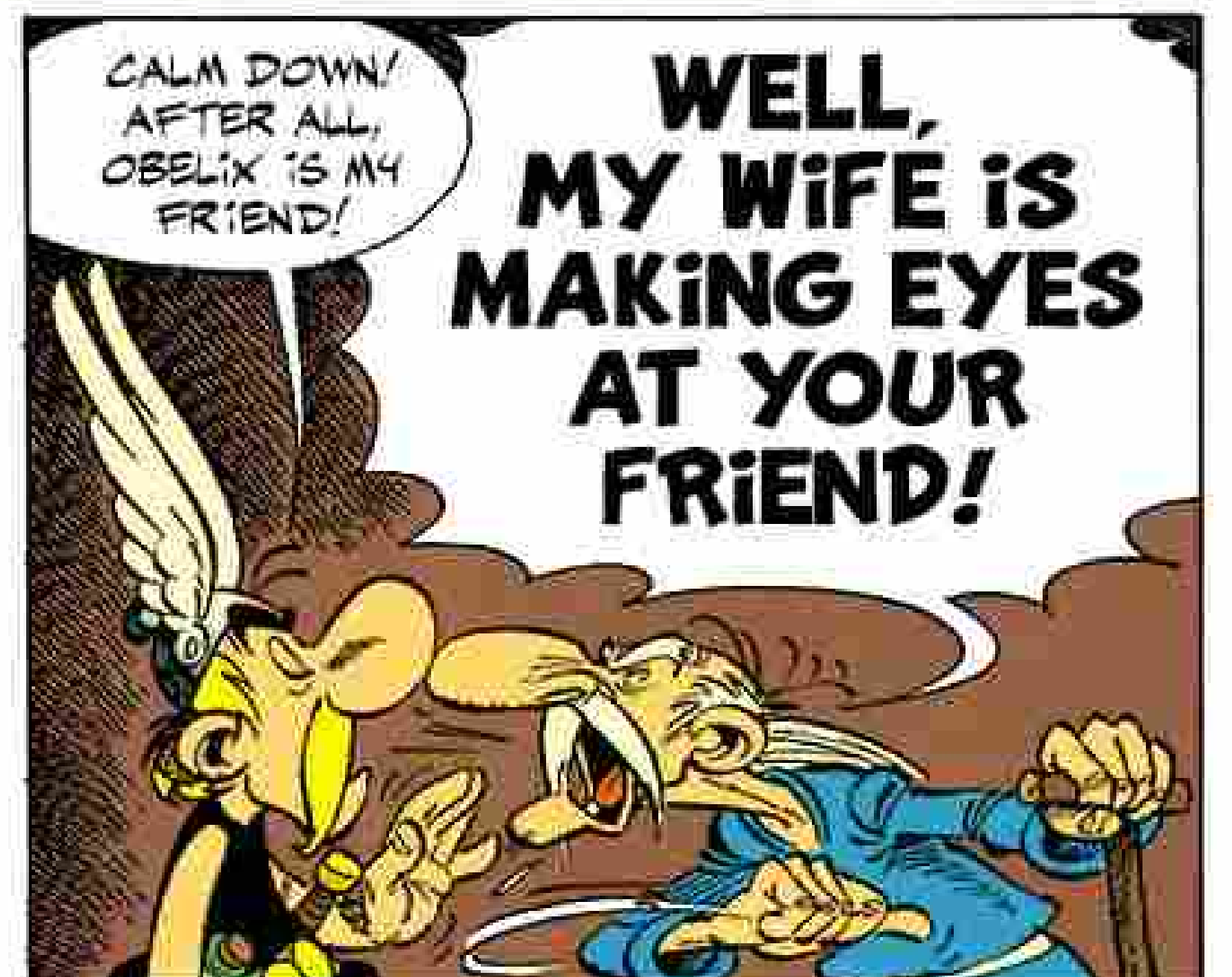
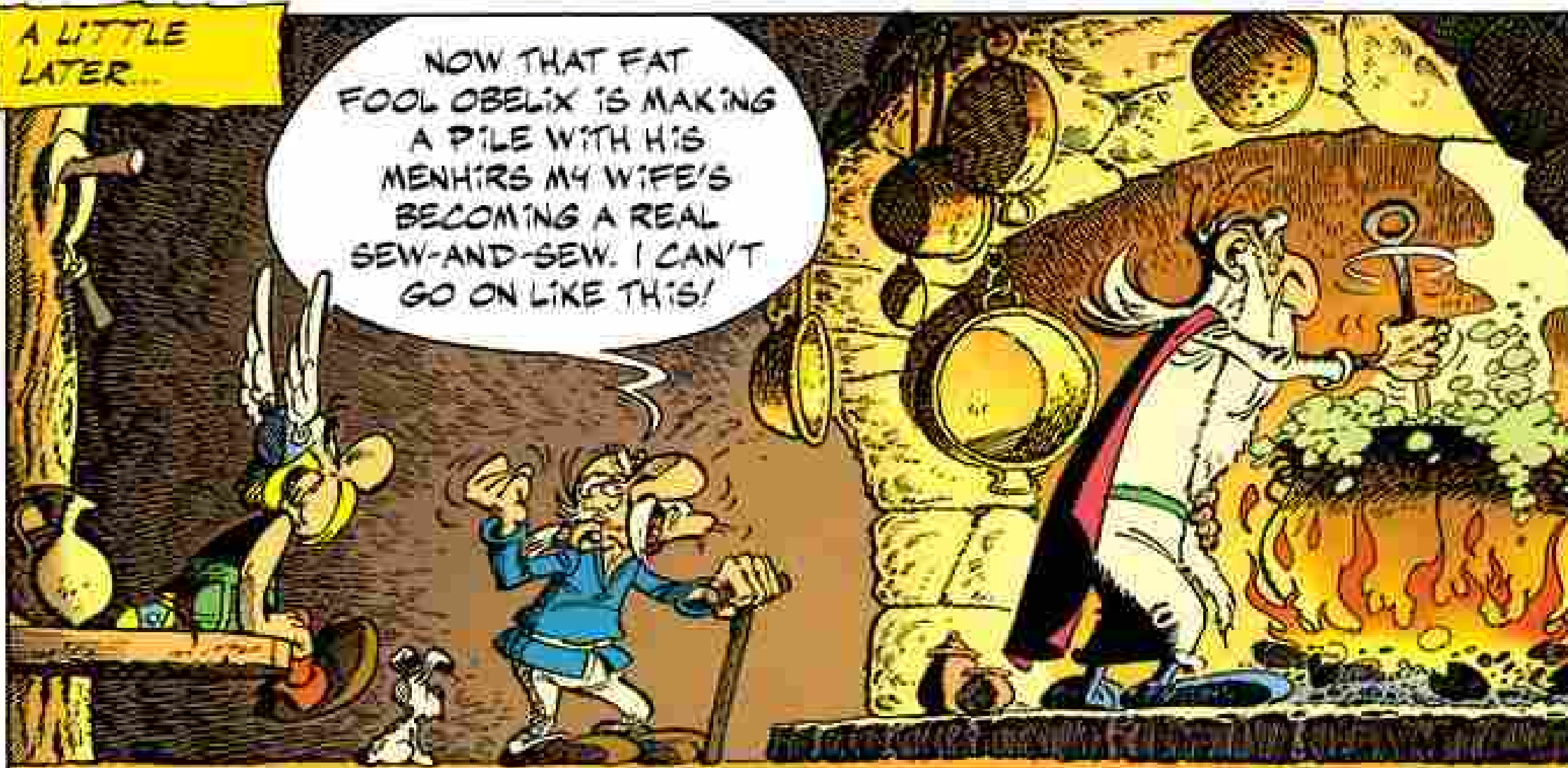
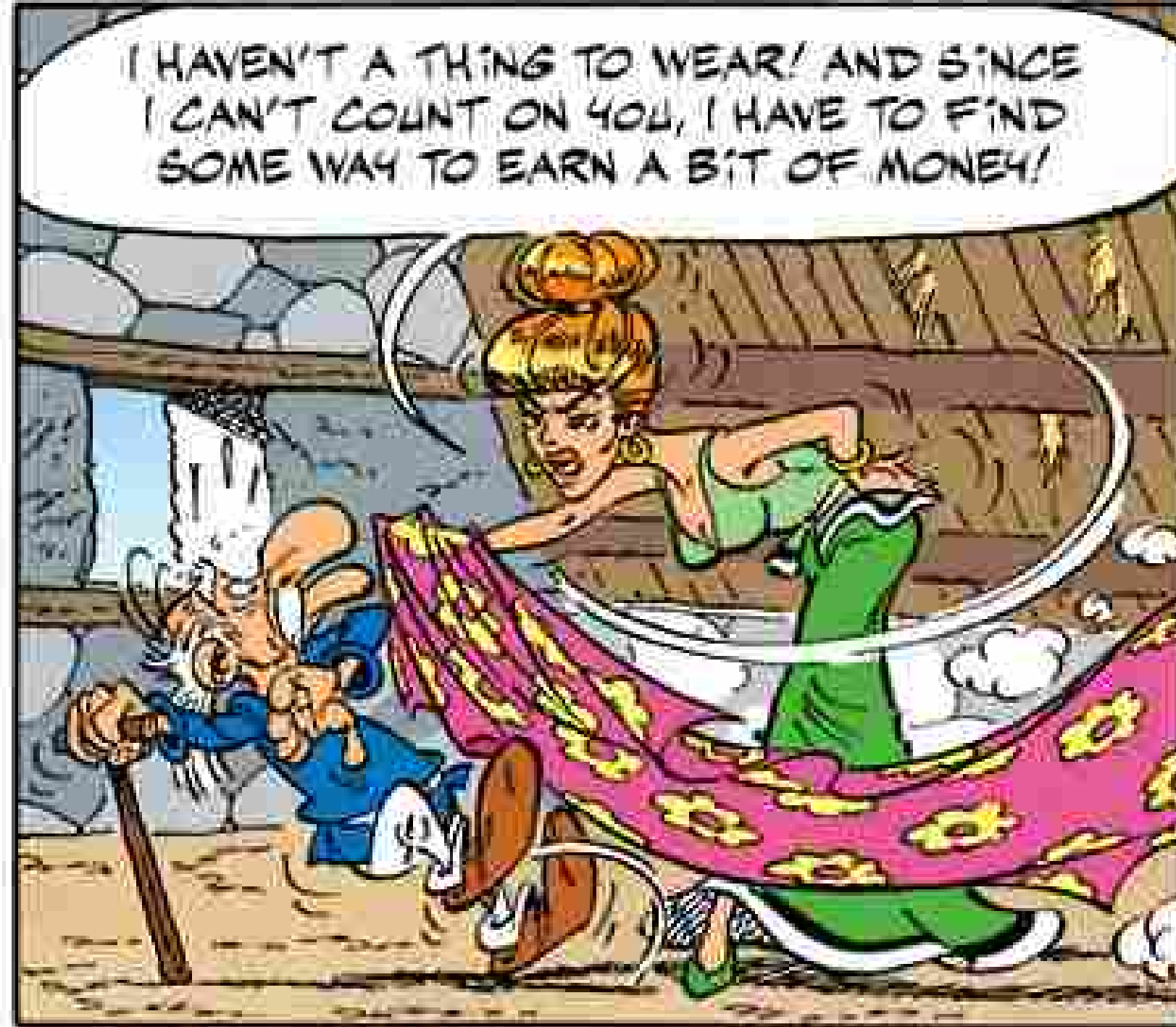
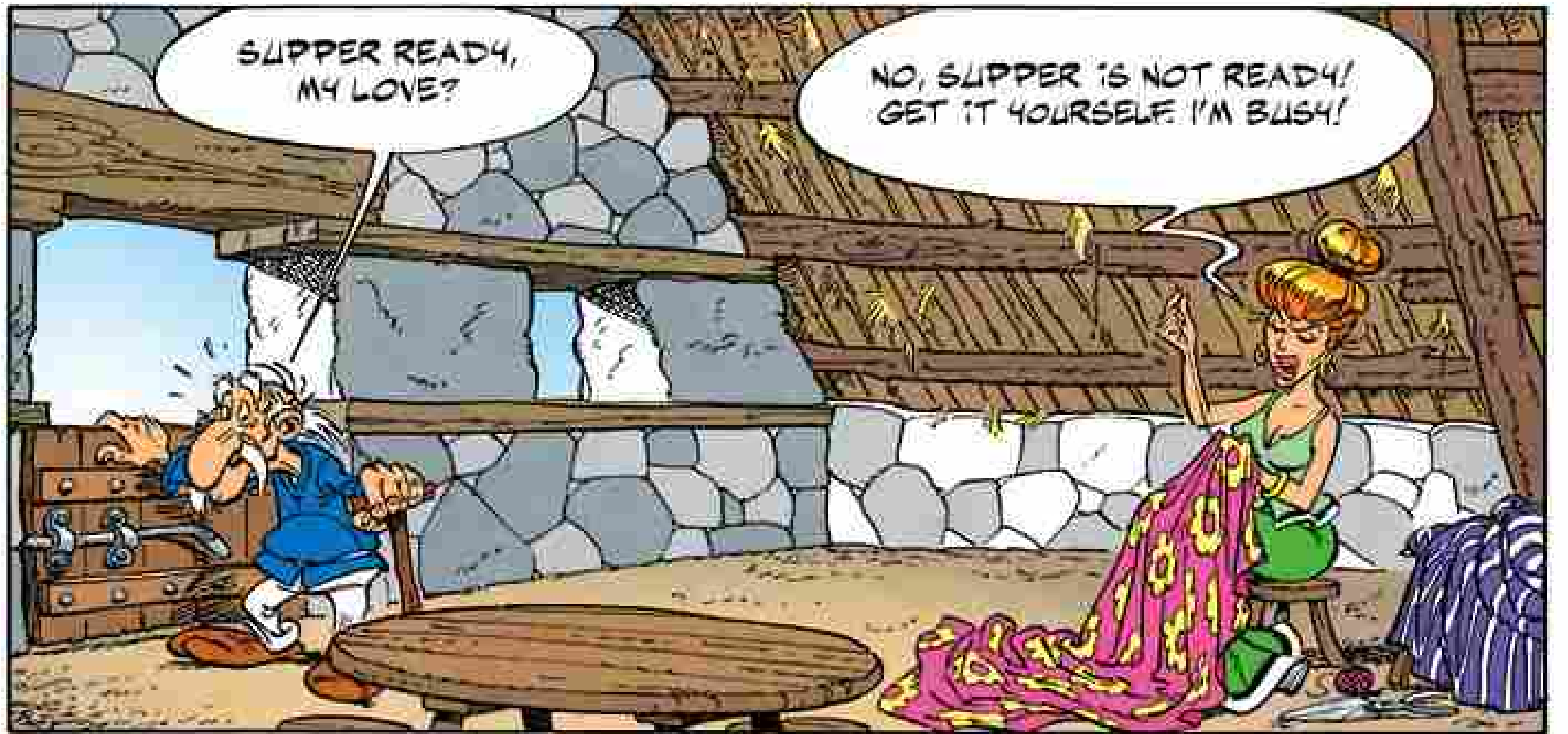


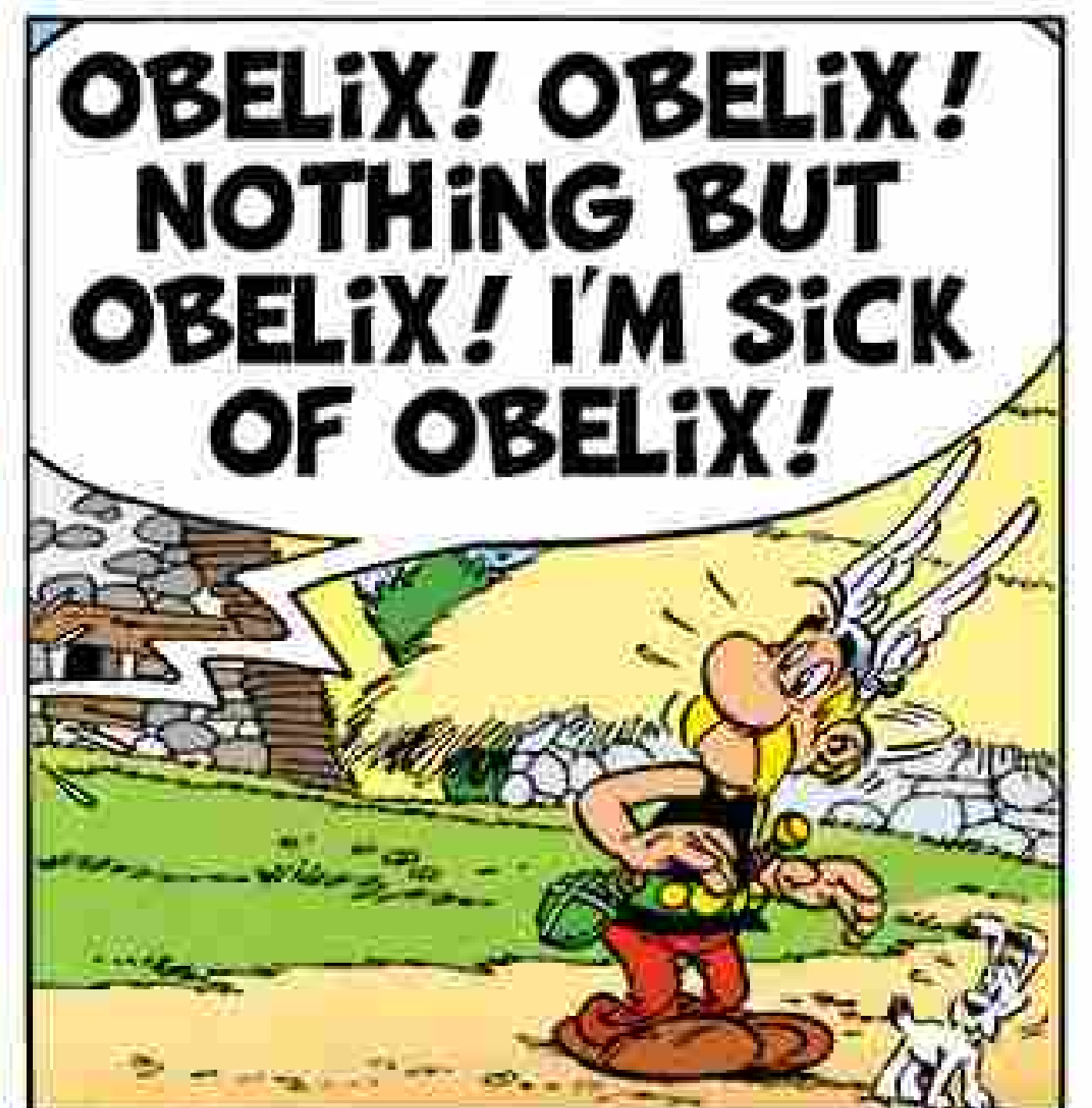
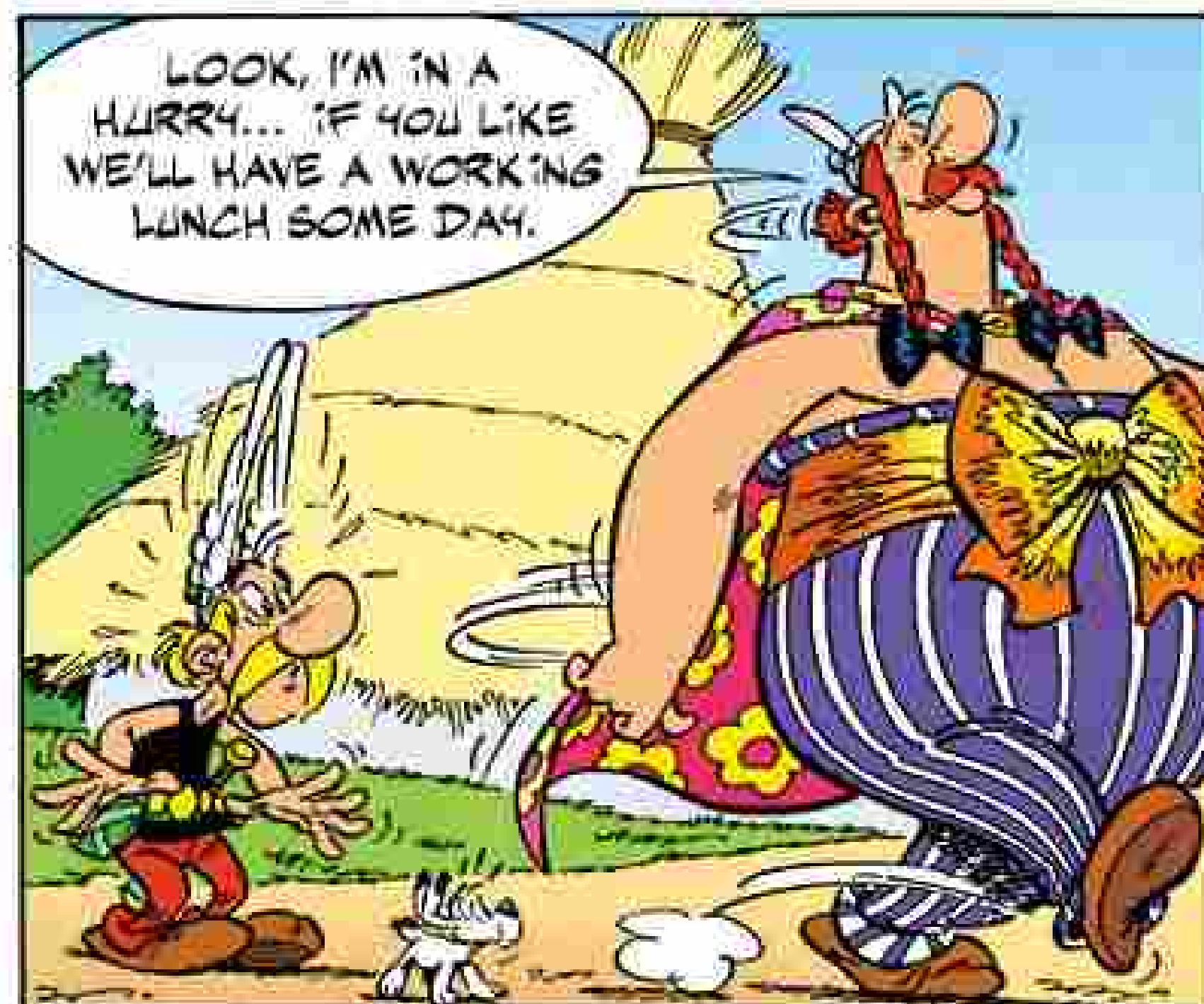
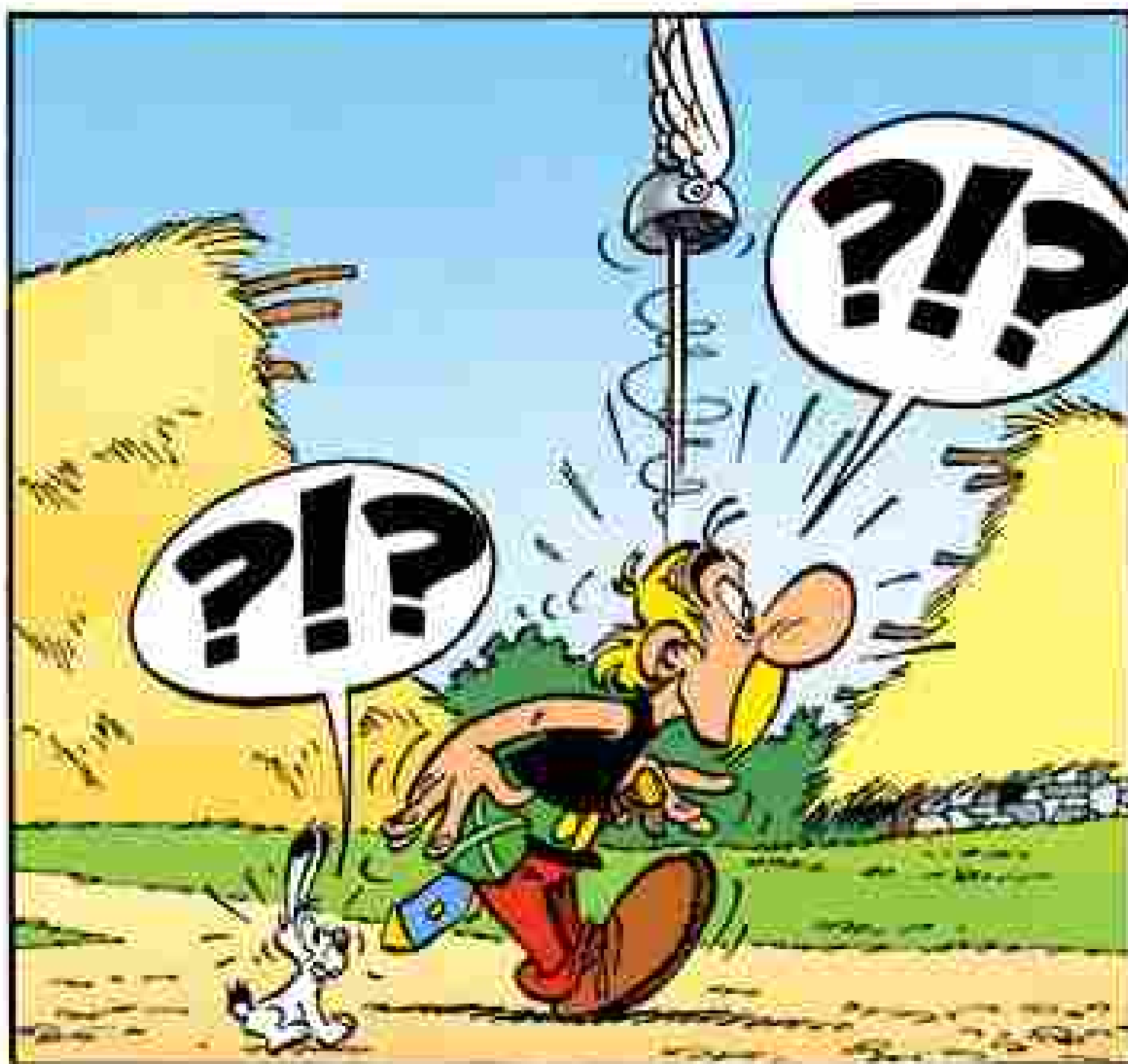
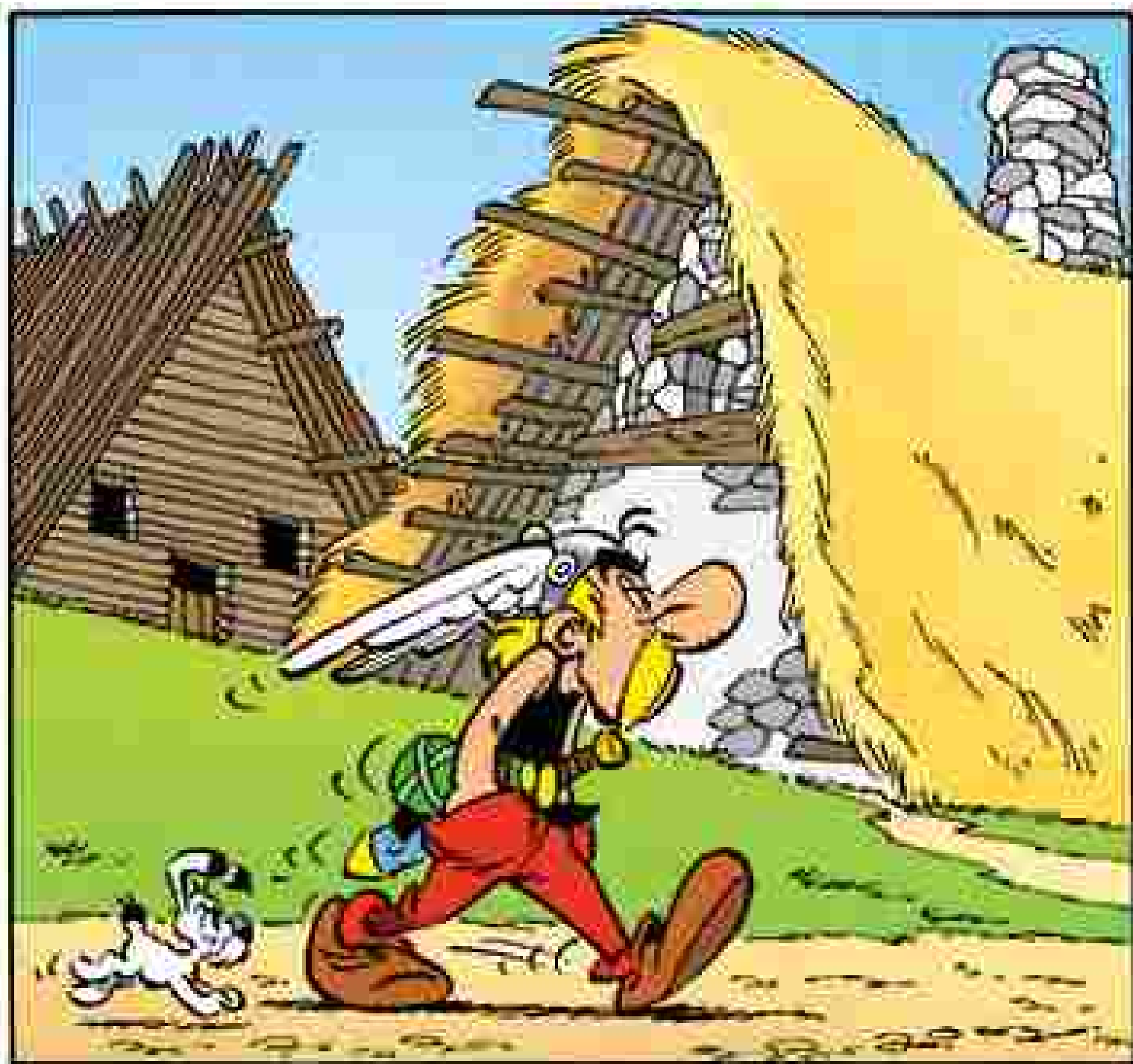
IT'S NOT THE WAY FOR A MAN WHO'S DOING SO WELL IN MENHIRS TO DRESS.

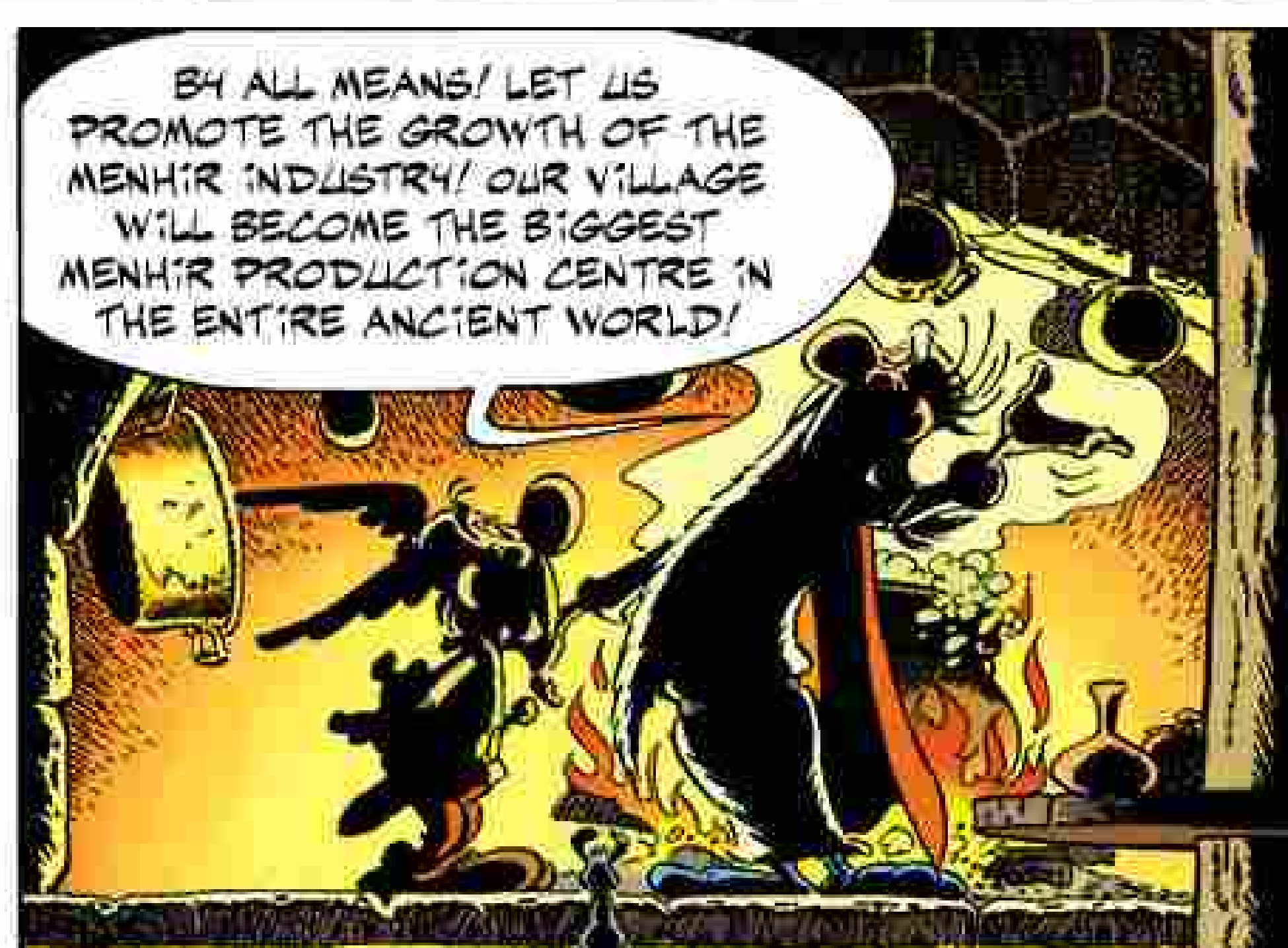
IT ISN'T?

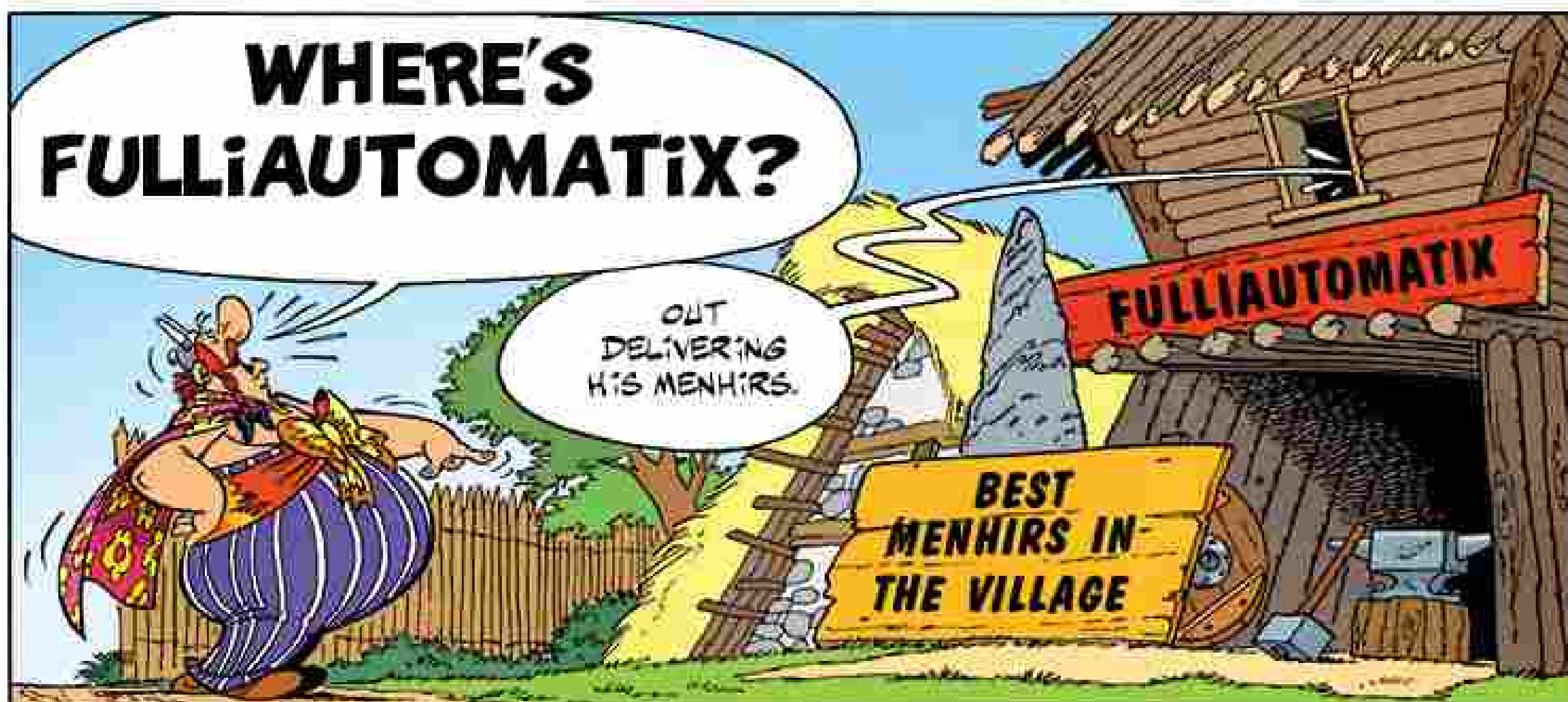
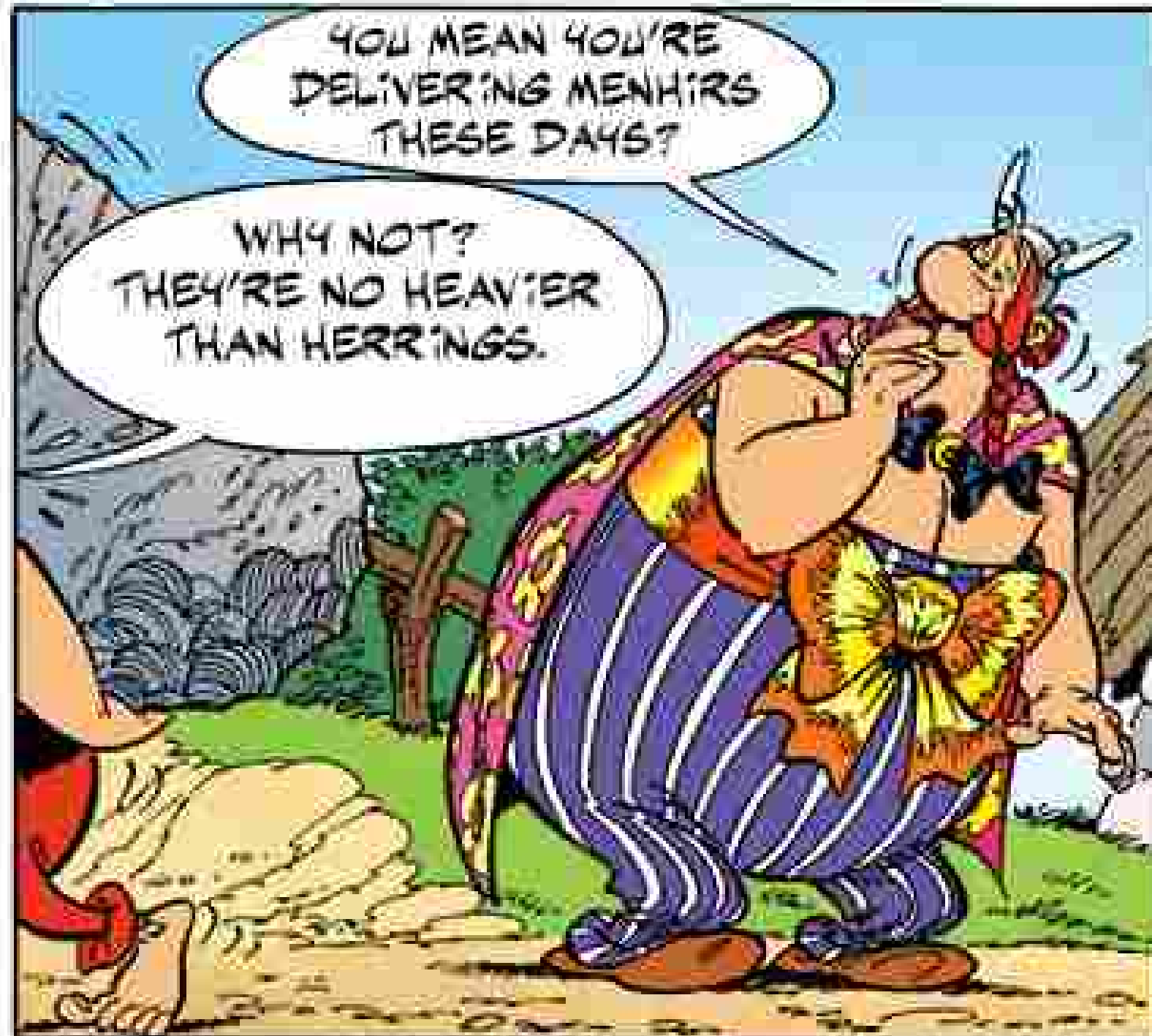
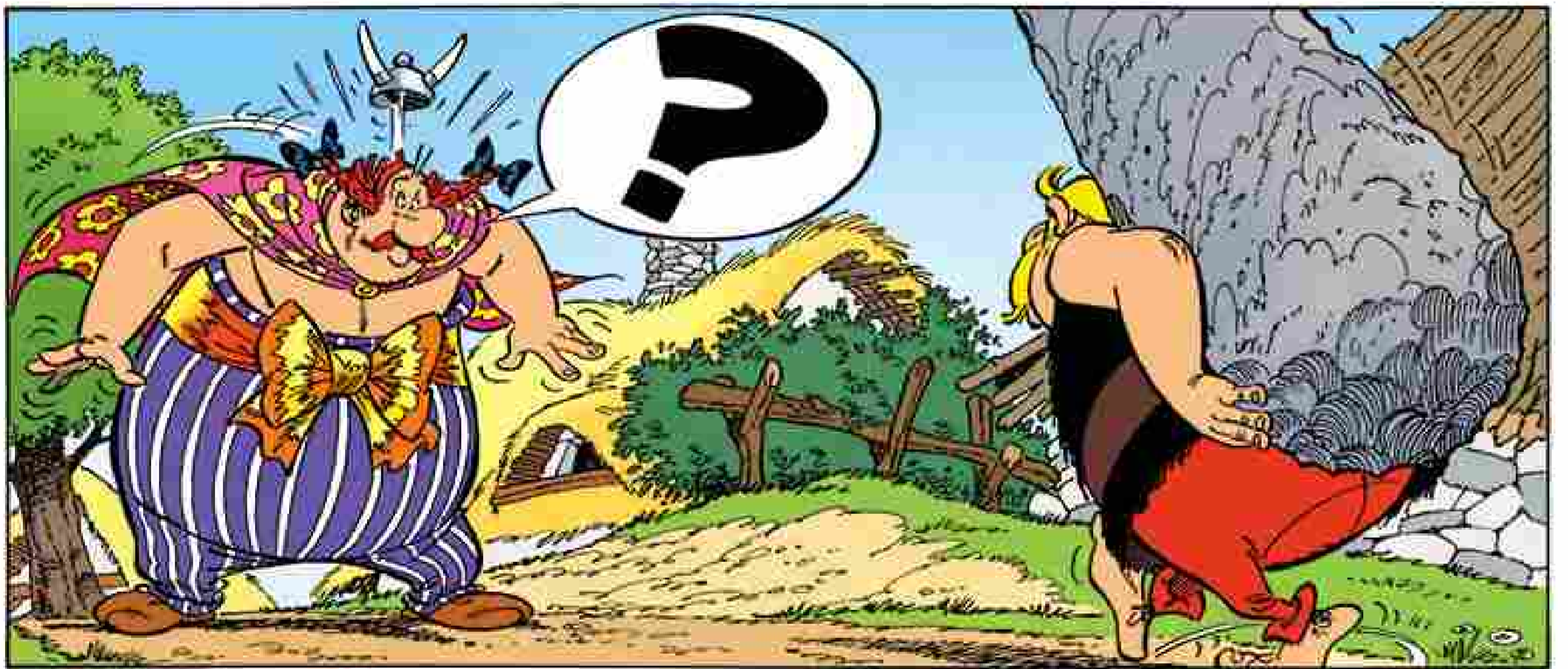
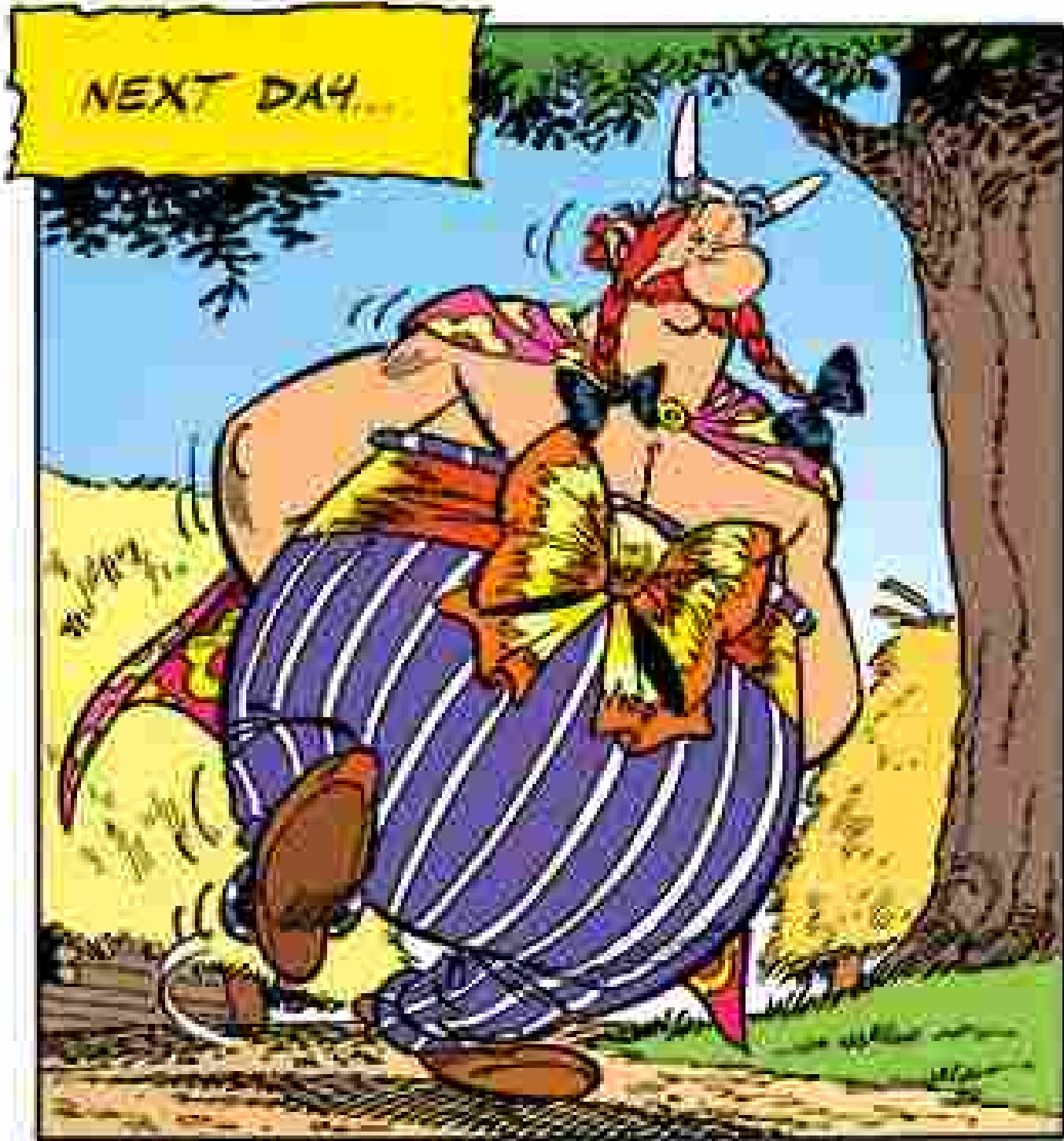


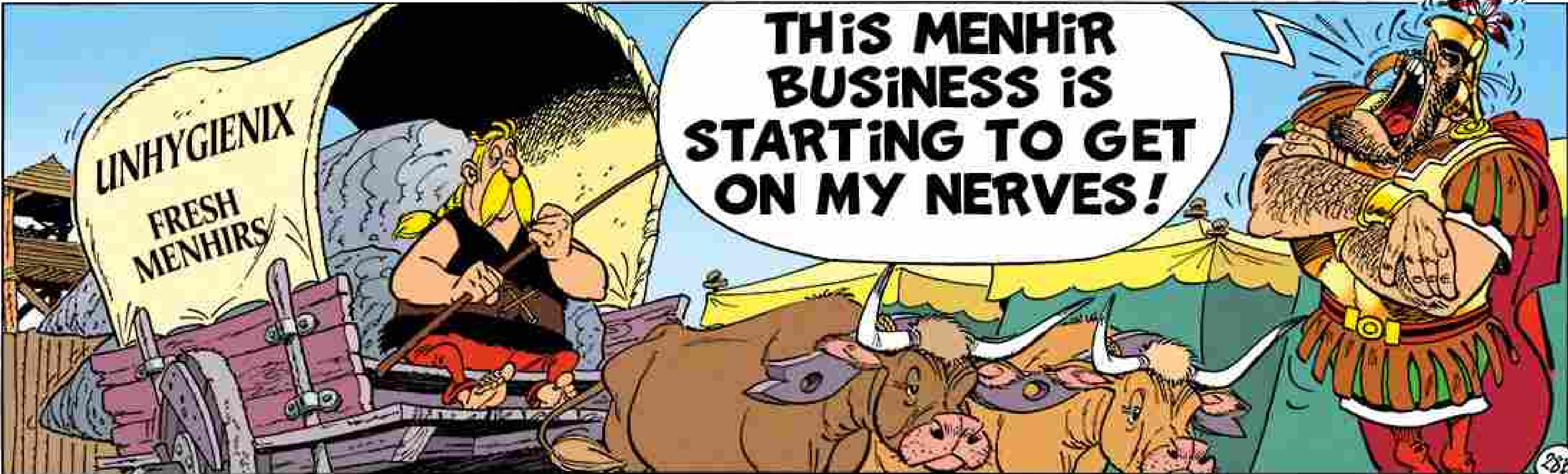


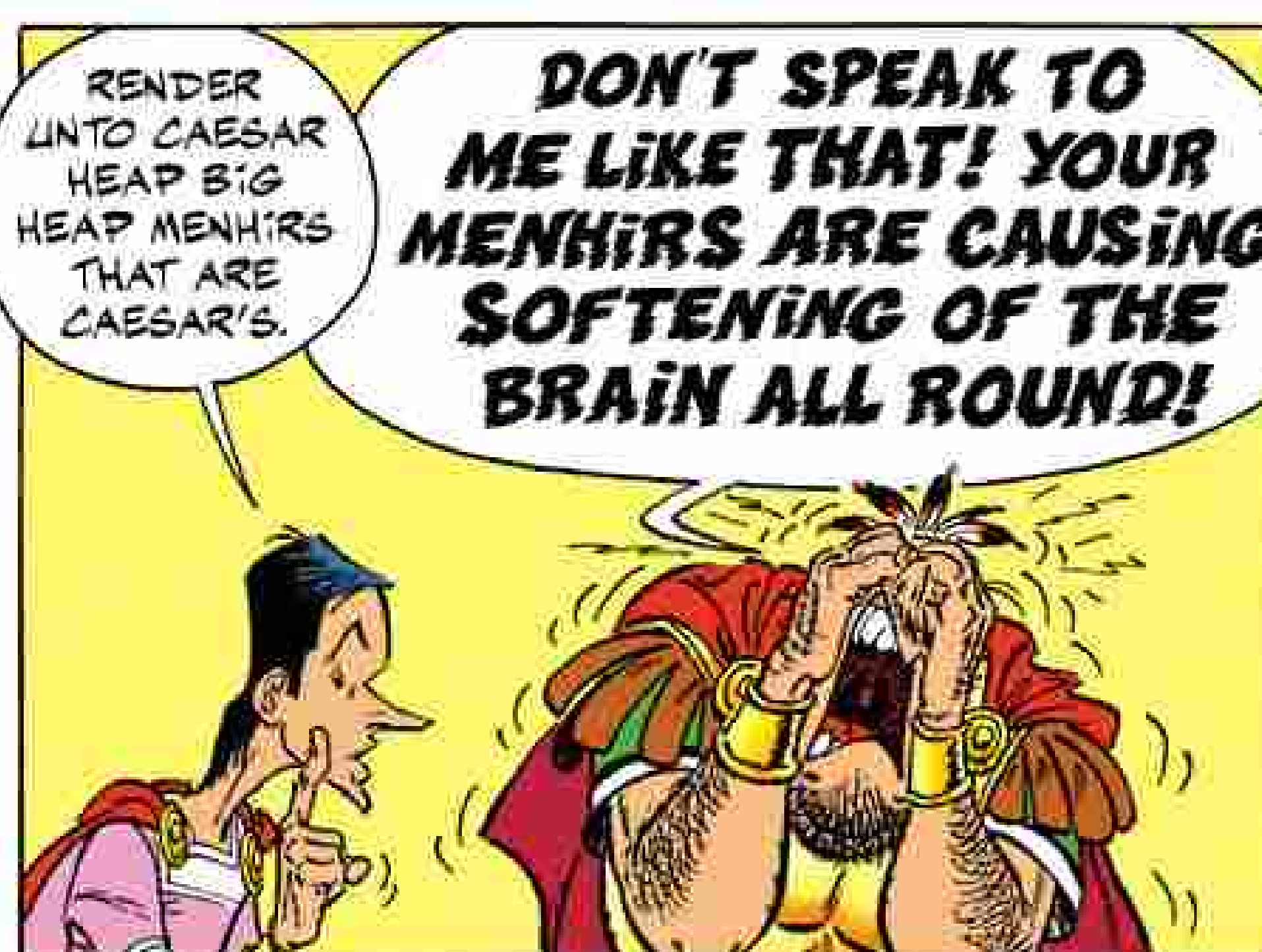
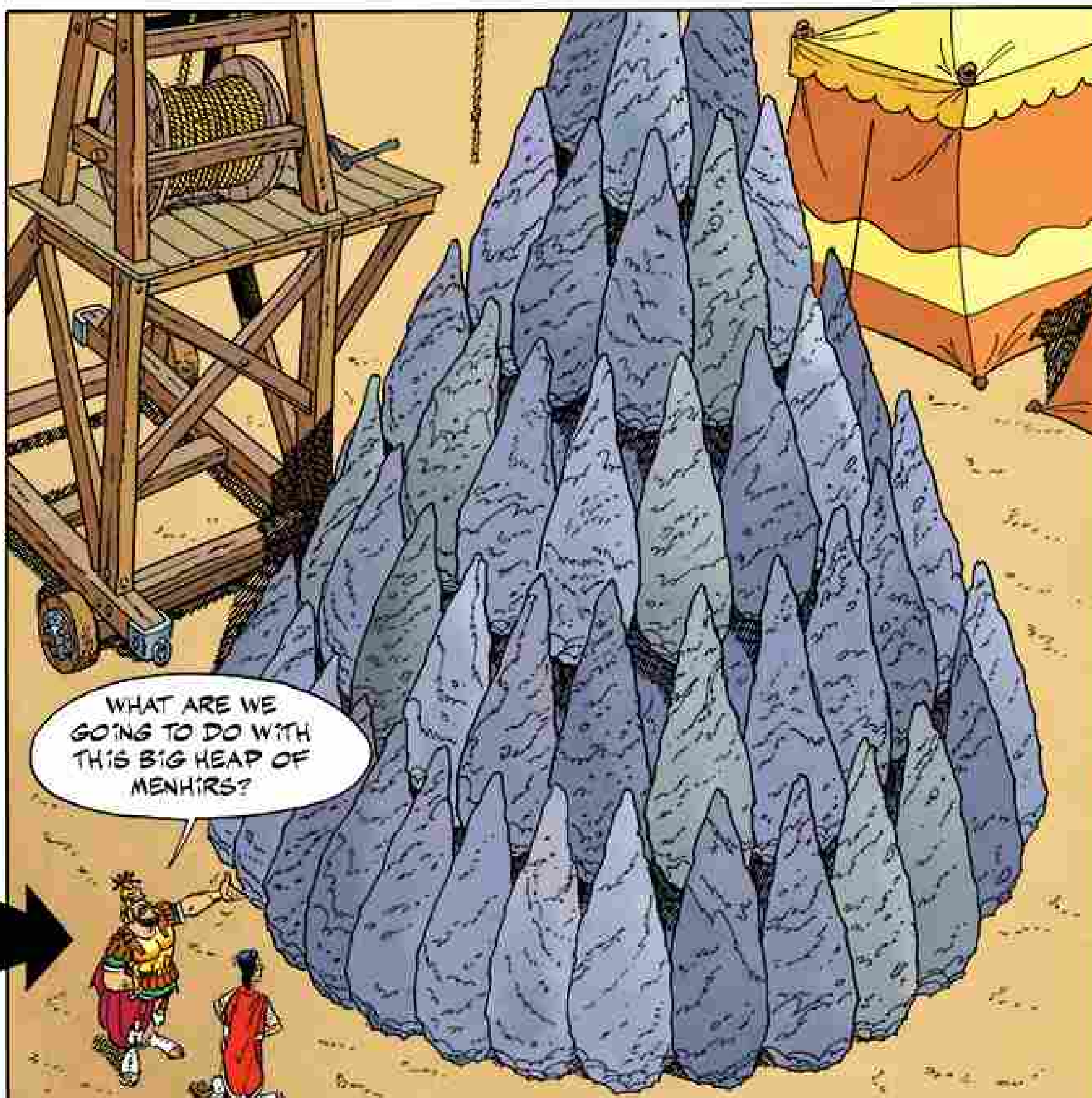
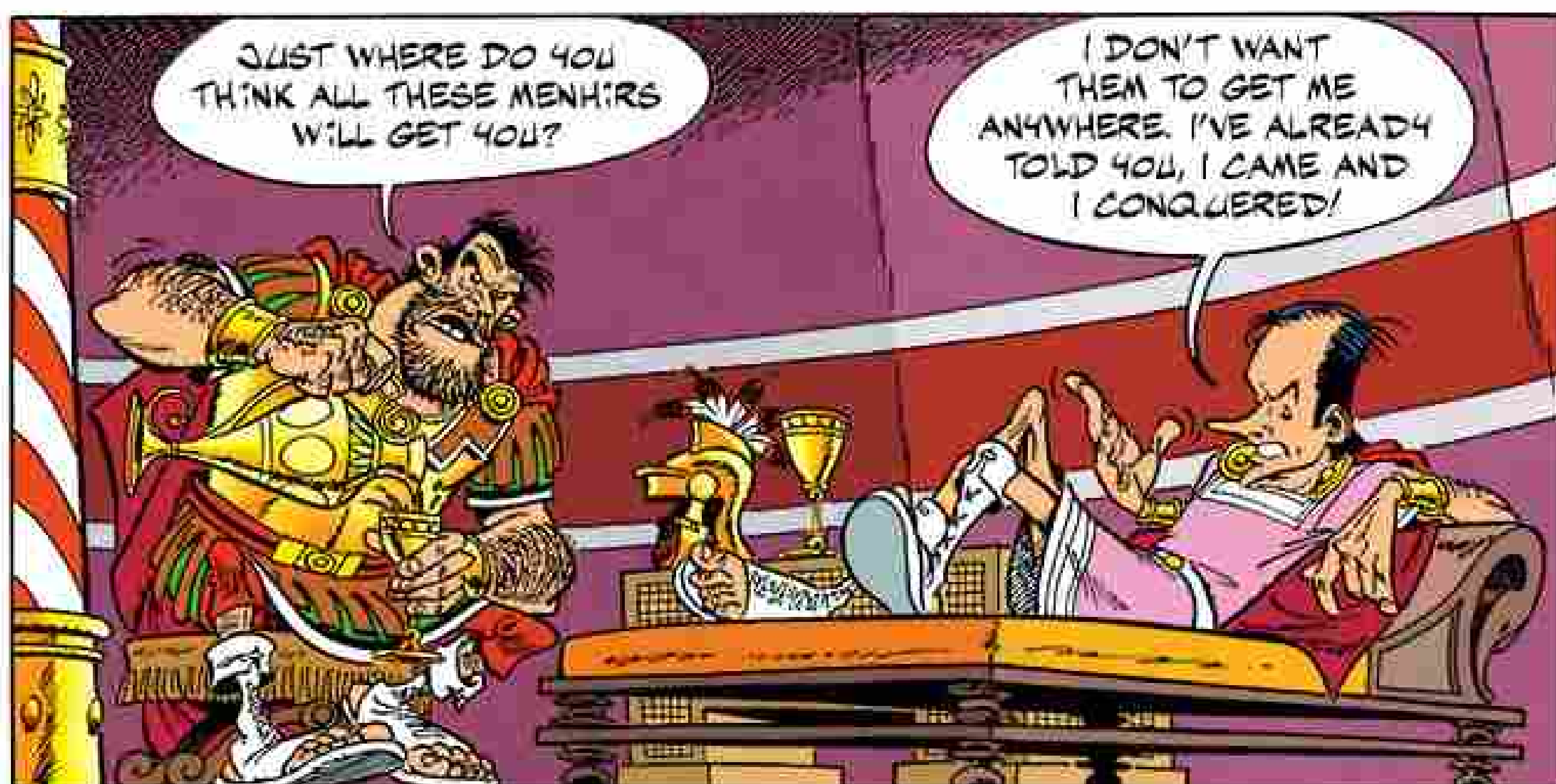












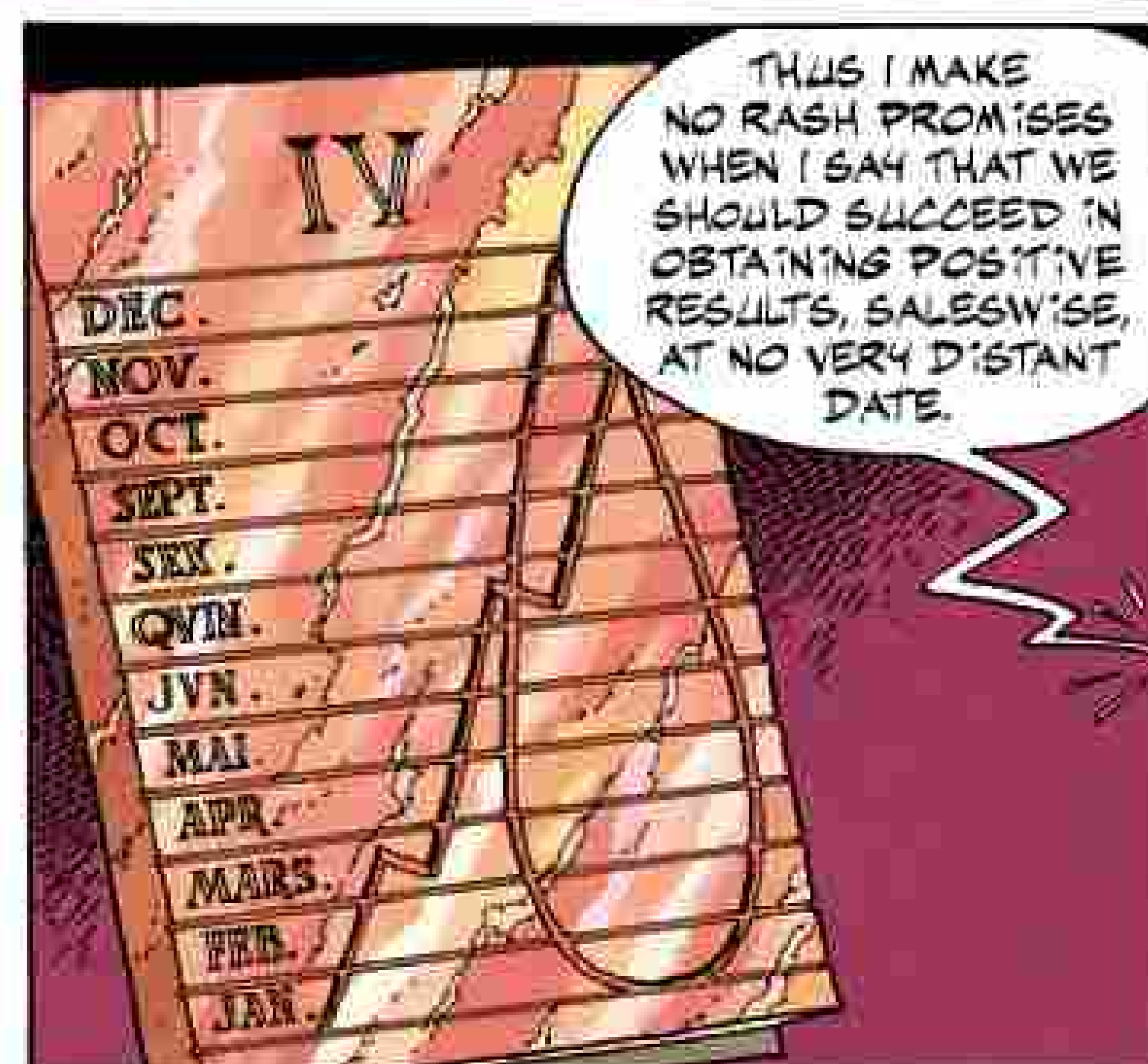
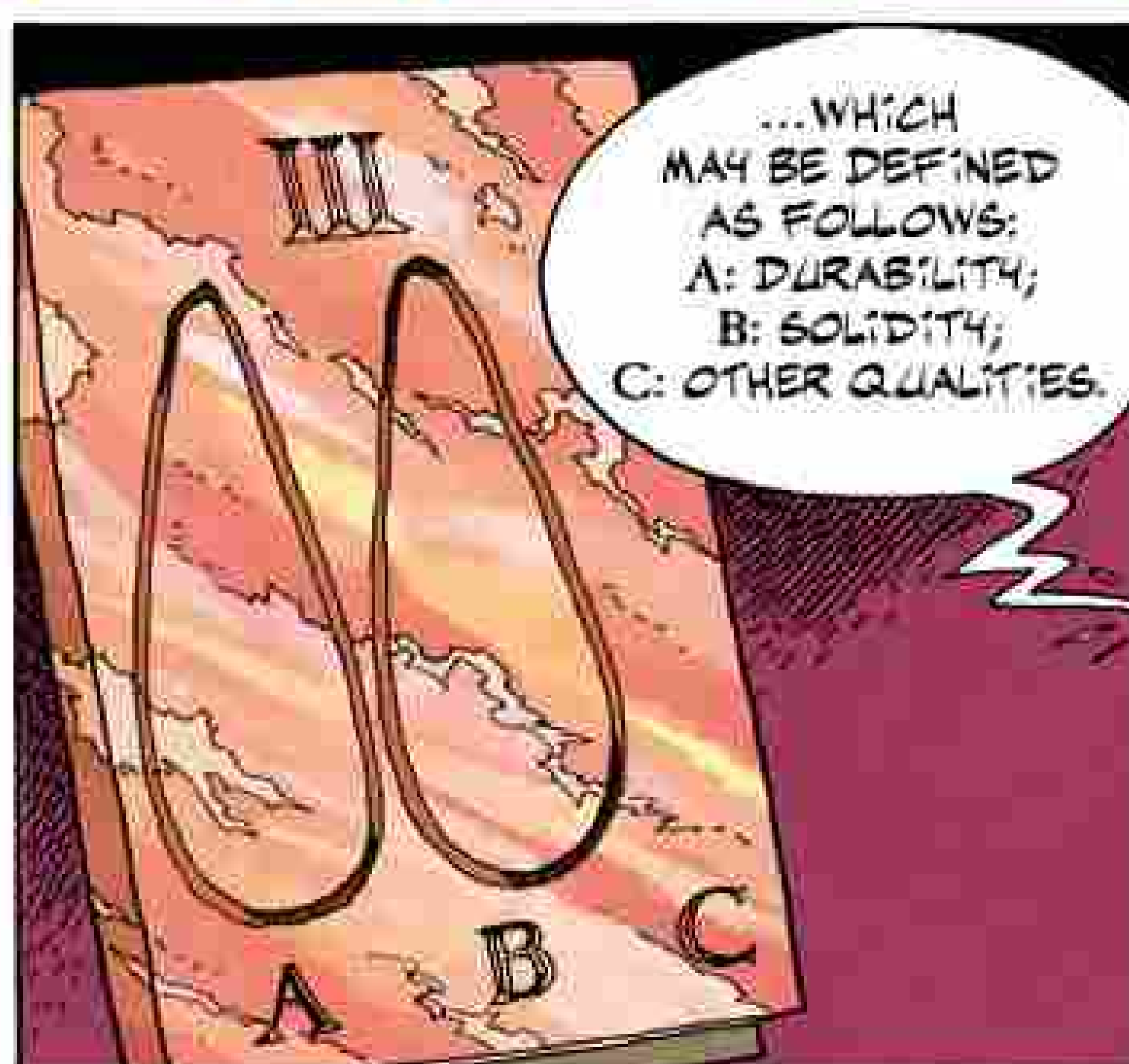
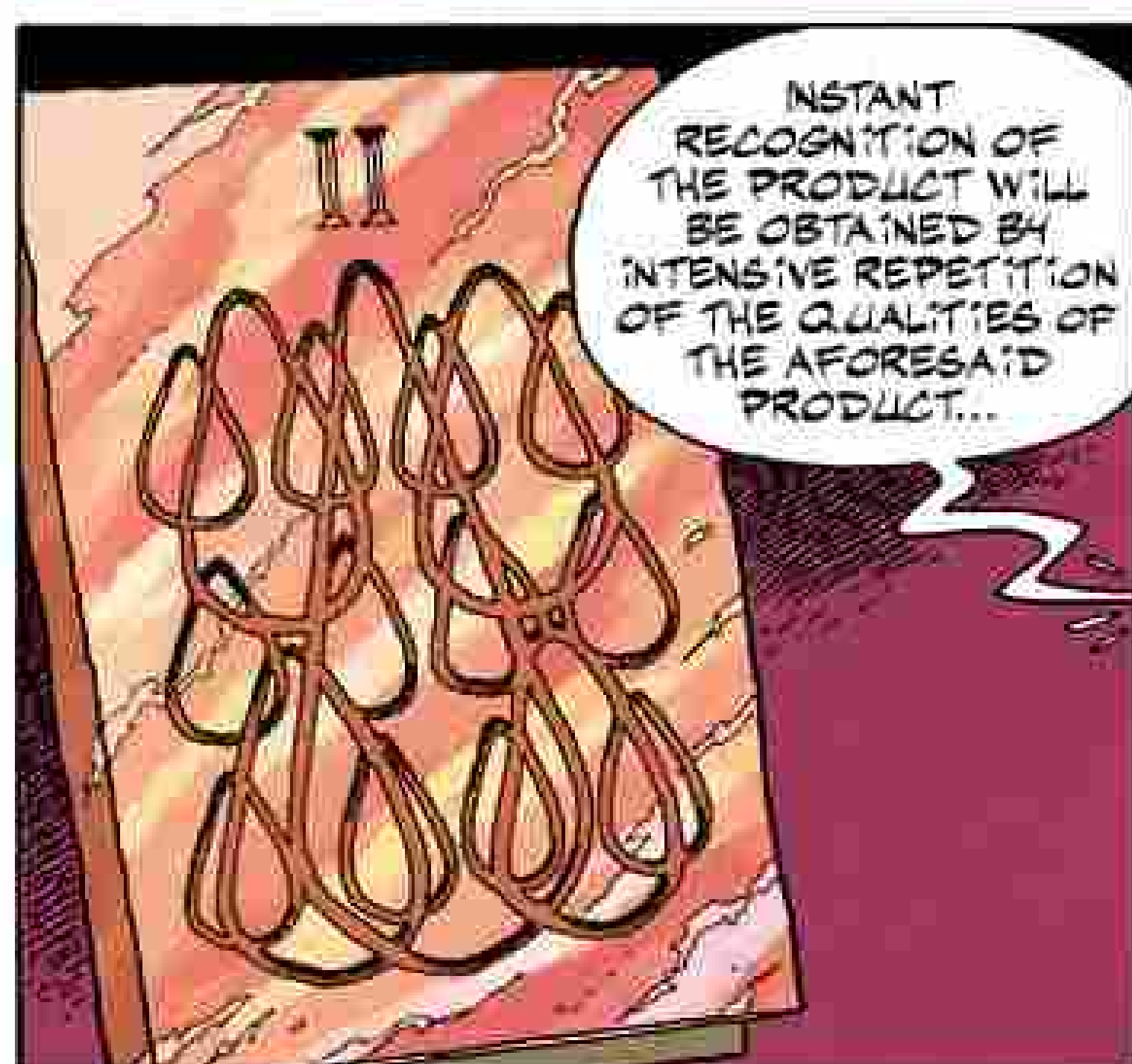
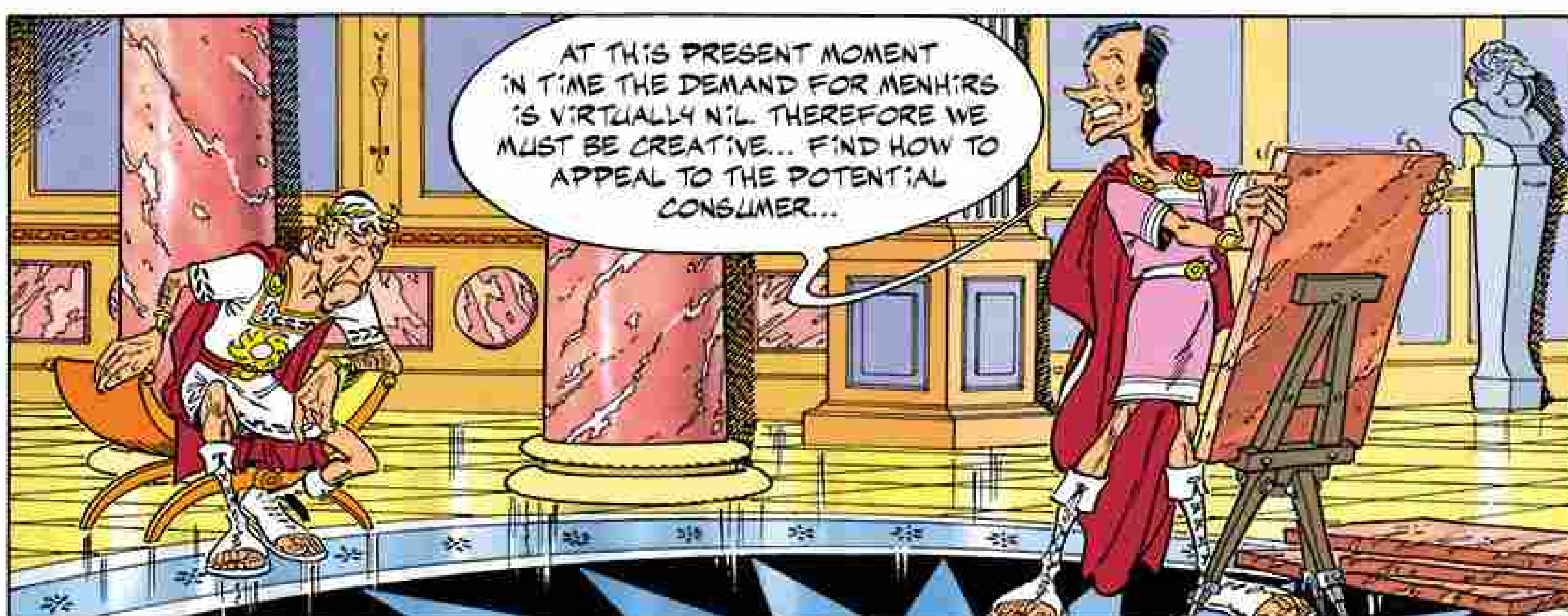


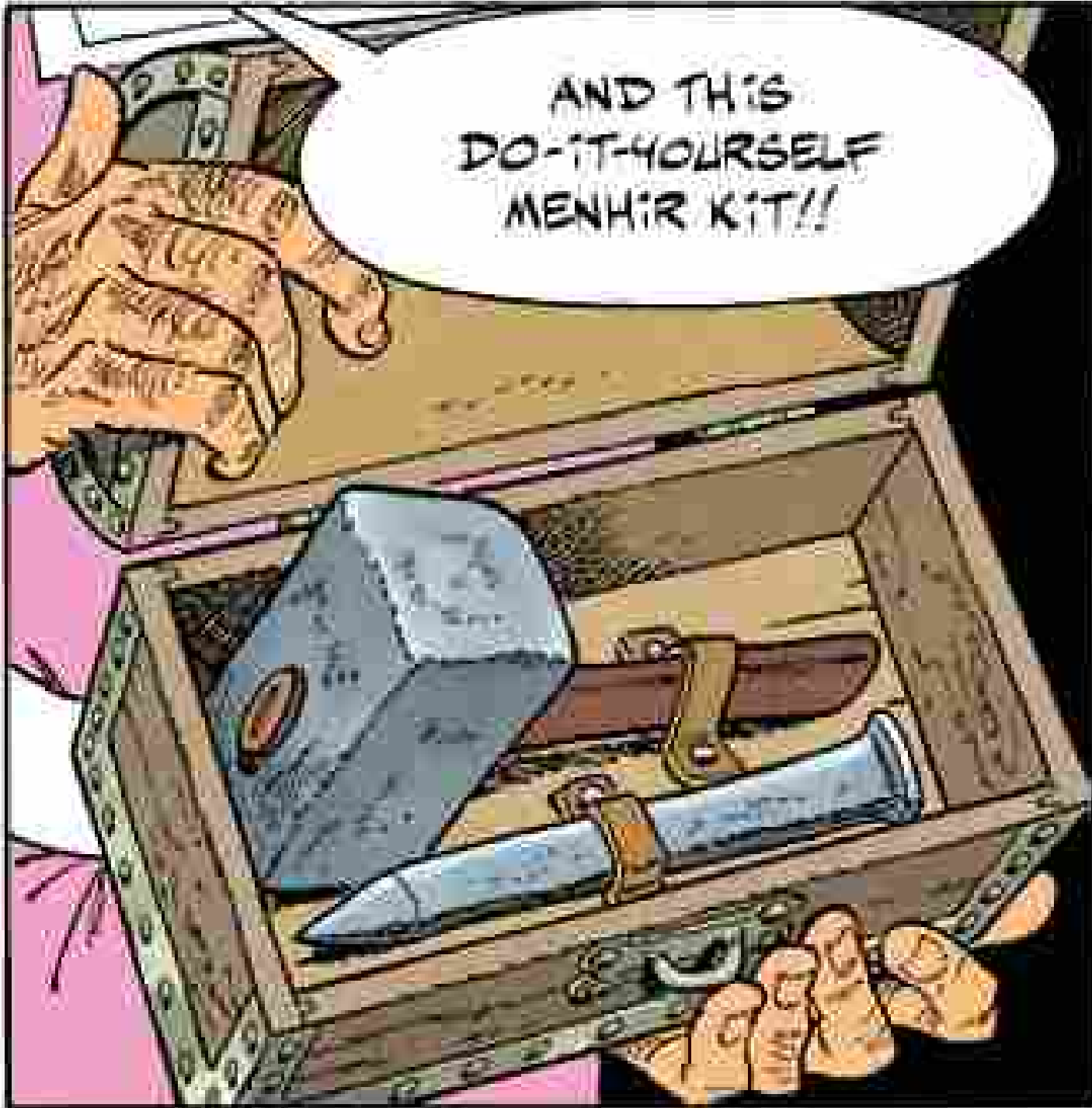
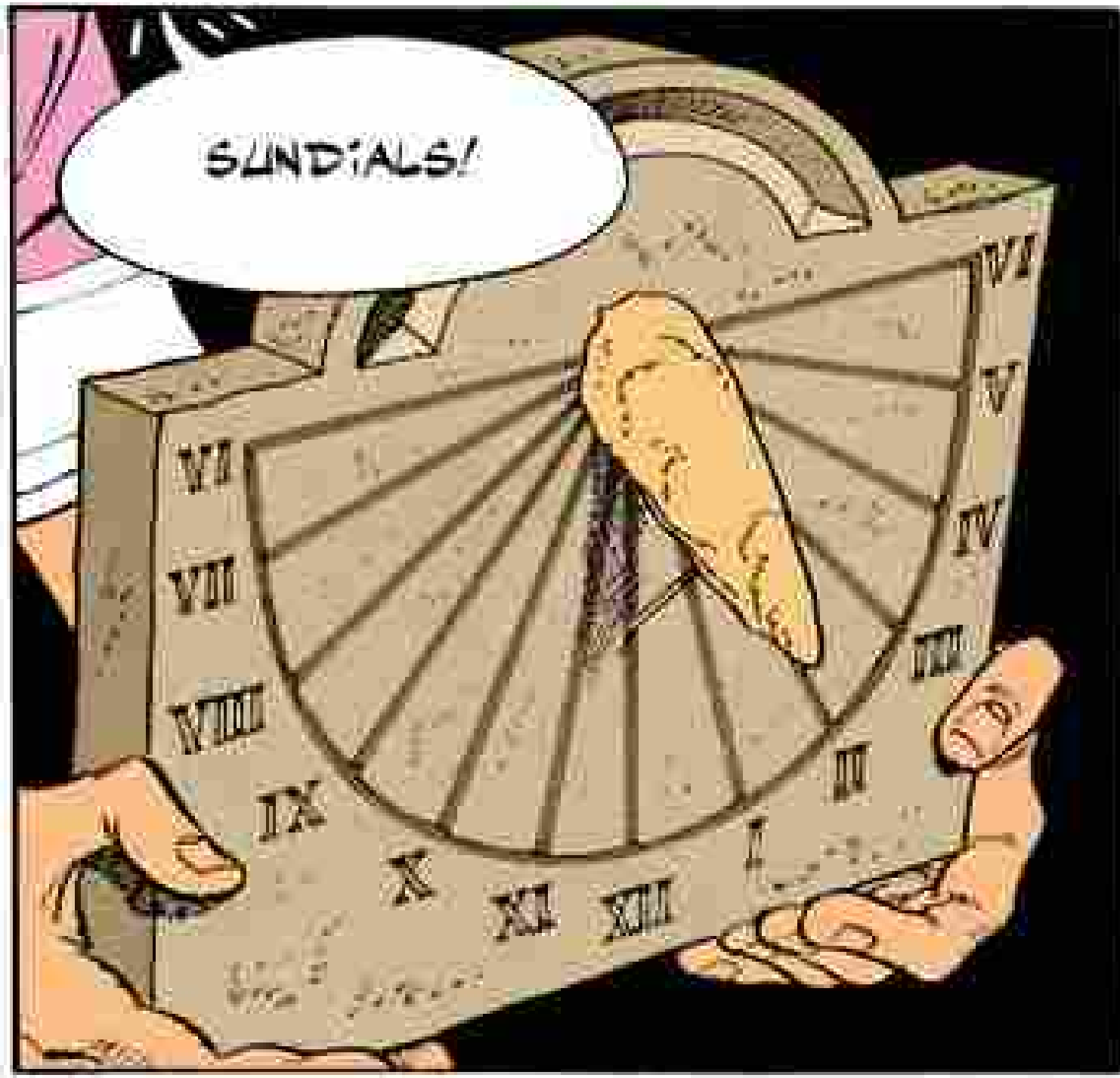


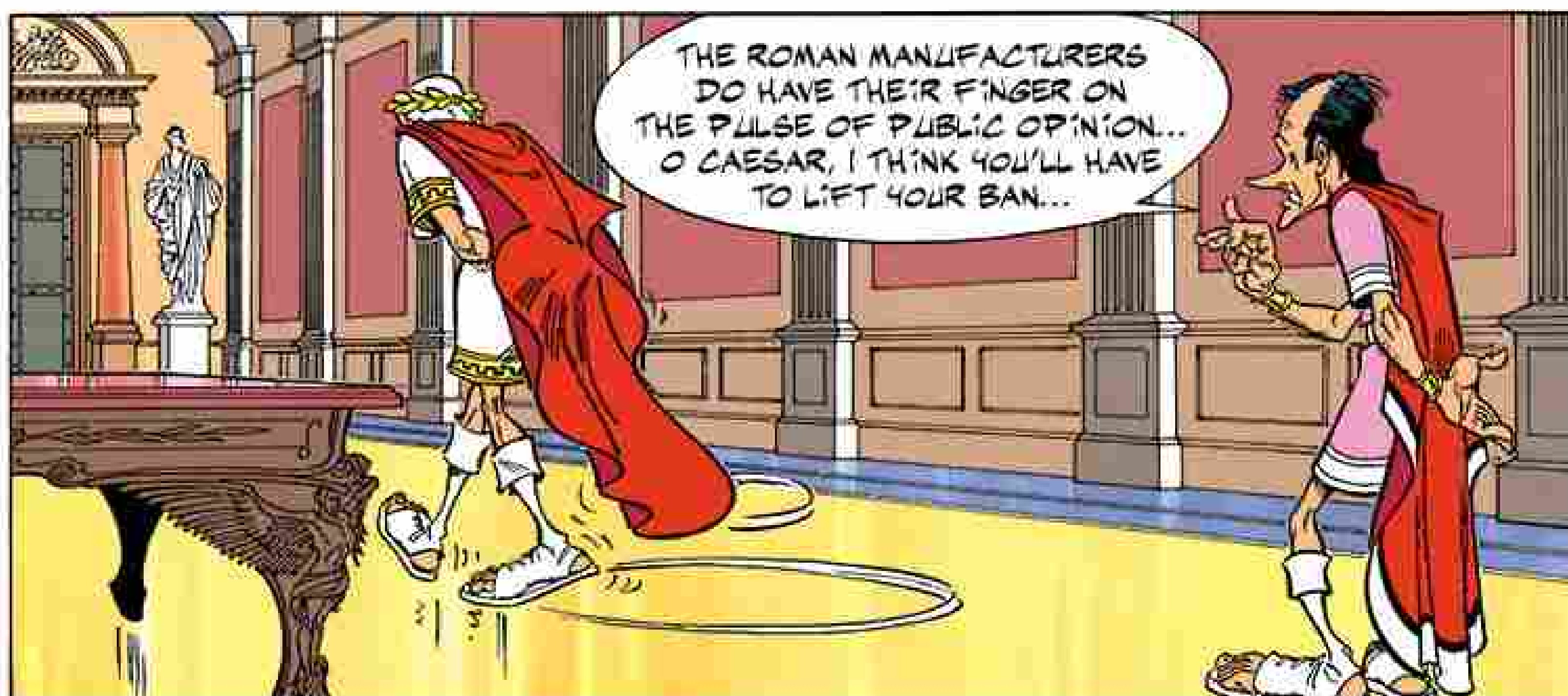
AND JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH ALL THESE MENHIRS?



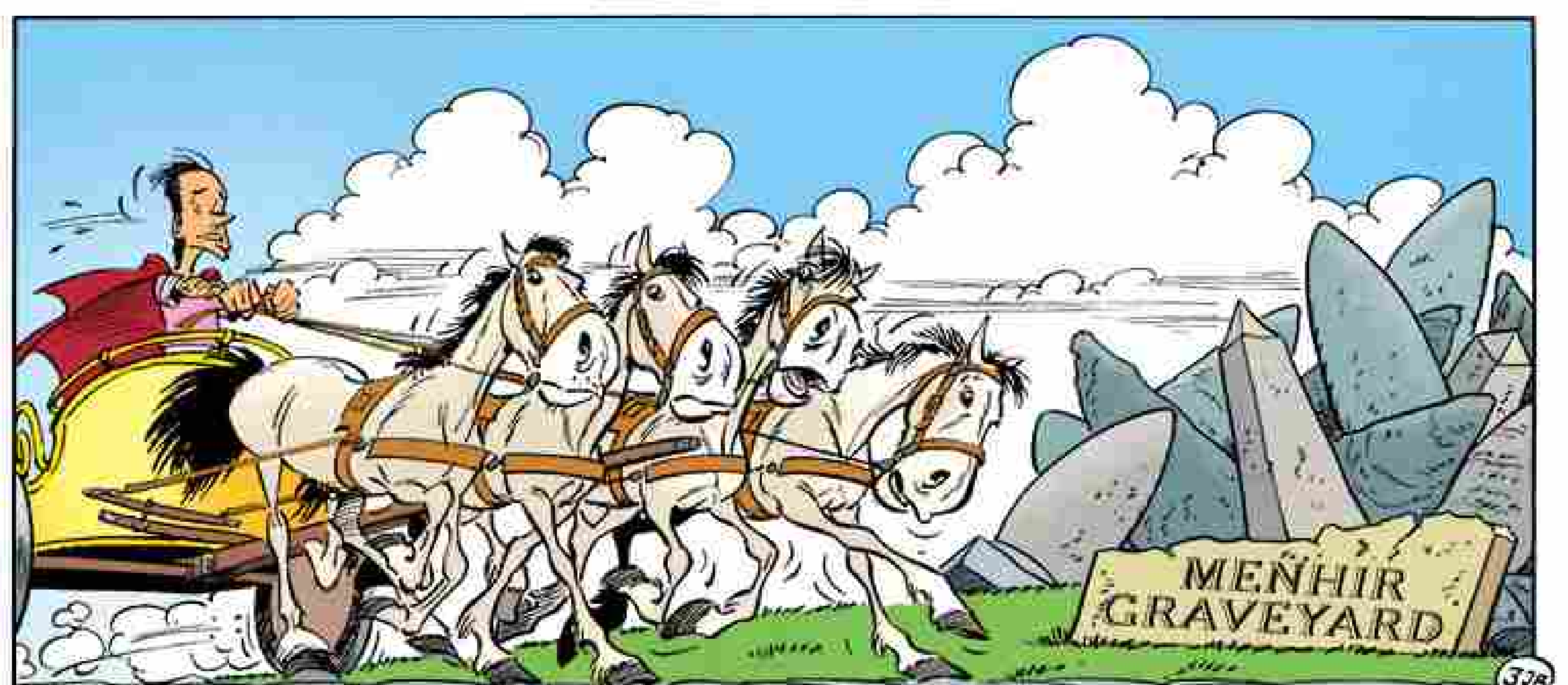
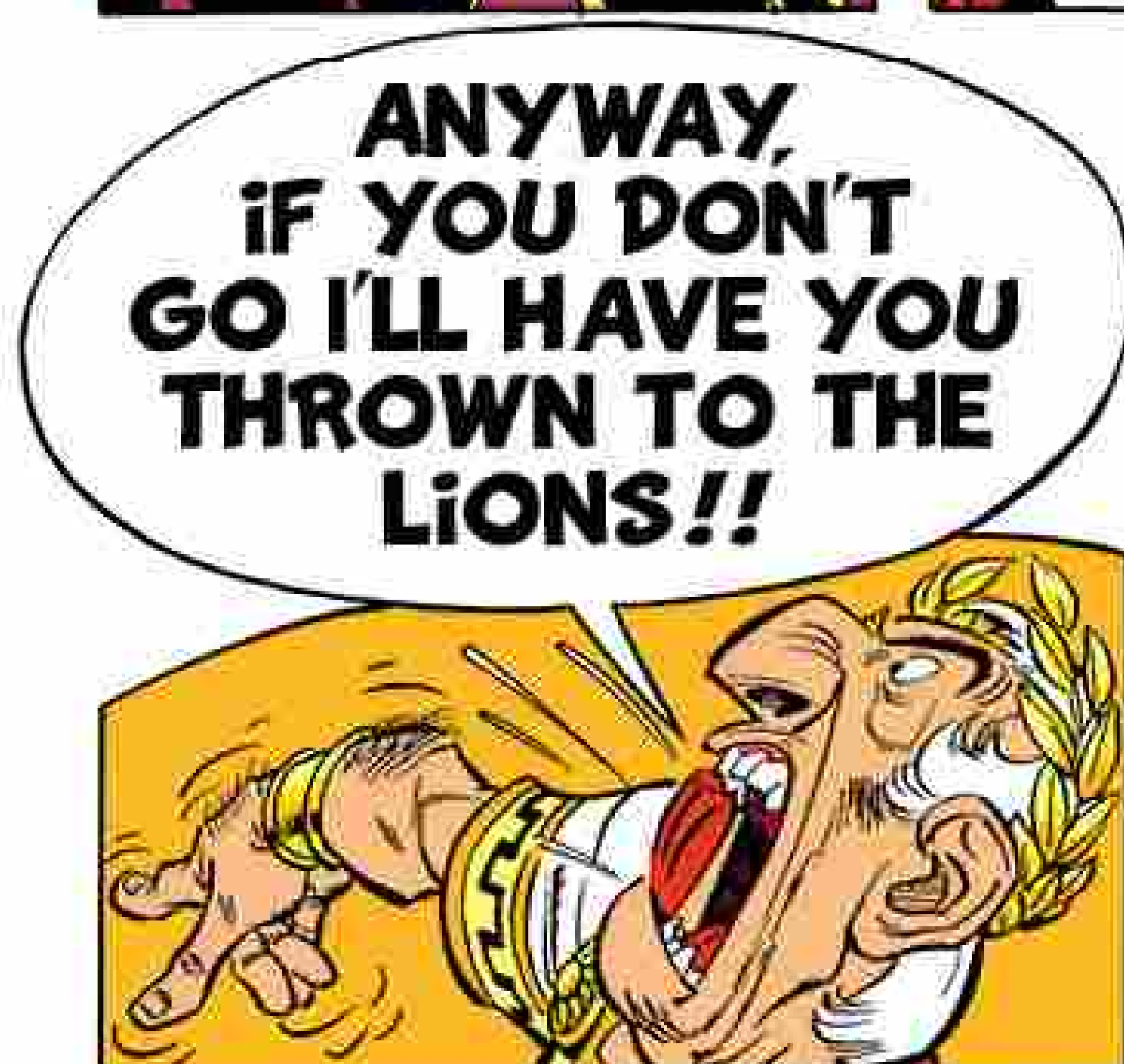
THE FOLLOWING
PASSAGE WILL BE
DIFFICULT FOR THOSE
OF YOU UNACQUAINTED
WITH THE ANCIENT
BUSINESS WORLD
TO UNDERSTAND,
ESPECIALLY AS, THESE
DAYS, SUCH A STATE
OF AFFAIRS COULD
NEVER EXIST, SINCE
NO ONE WOULD DREAM
OF TRYING TO SELL
SOMETHING UTTERLY
USELESS...

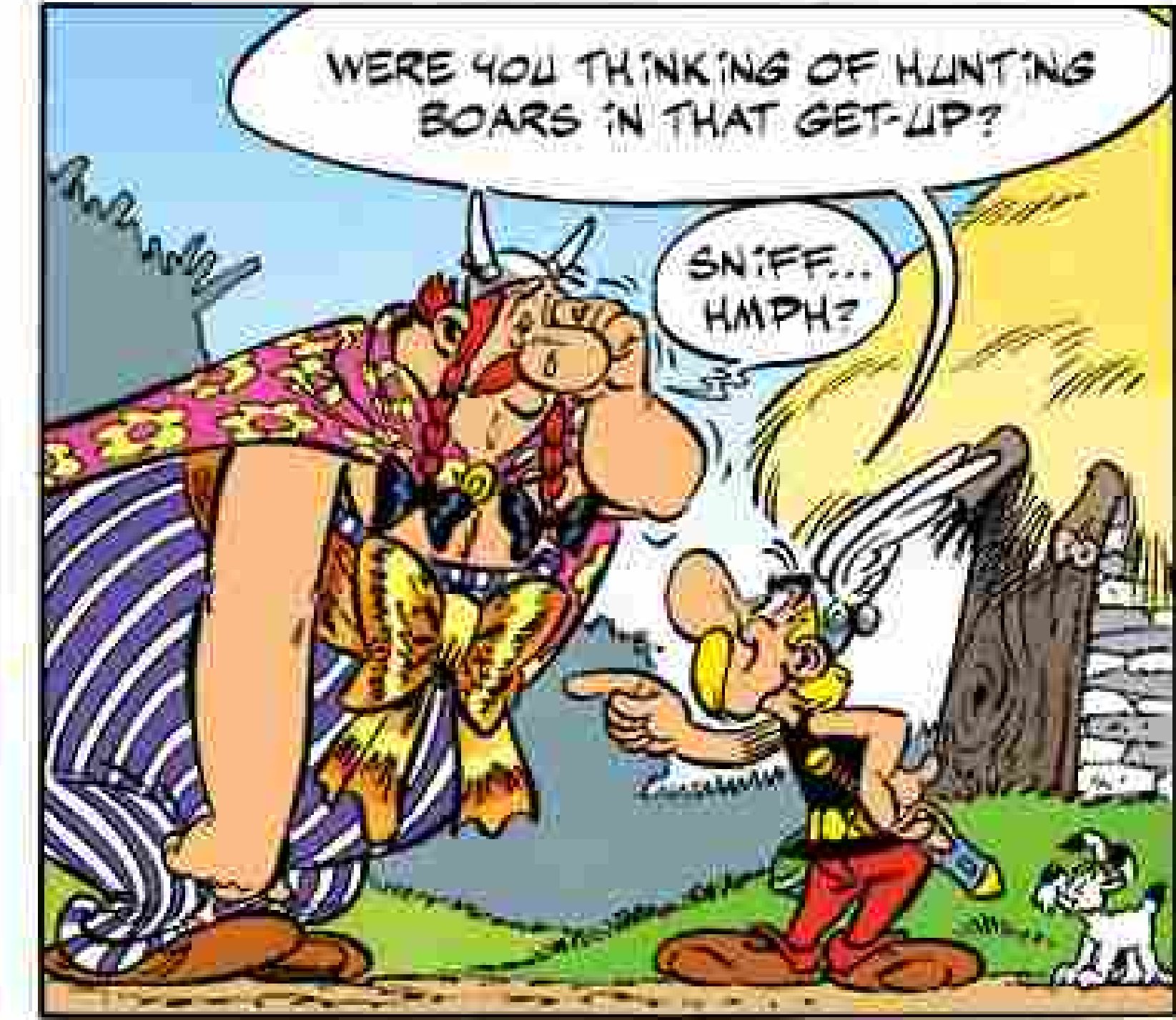
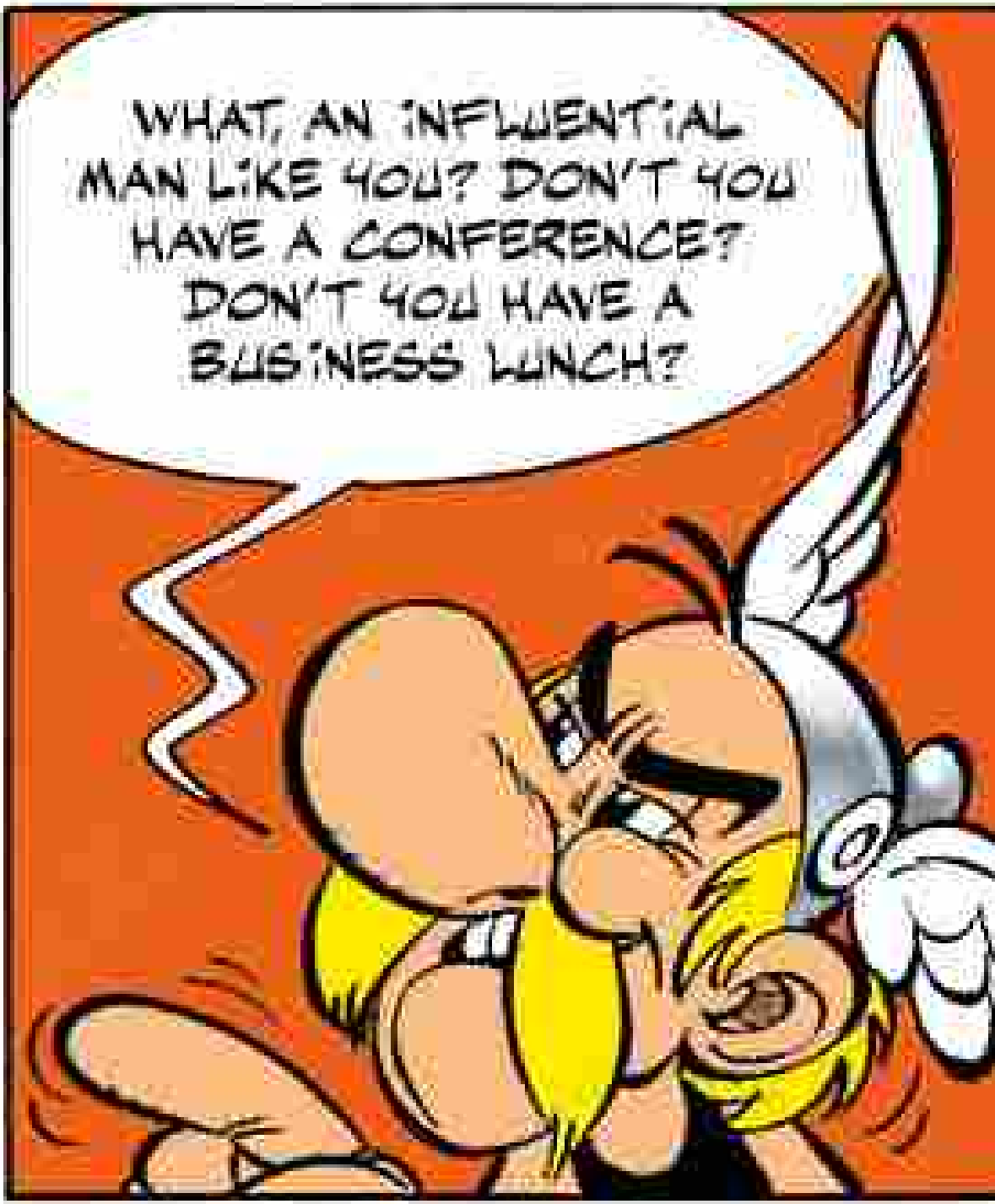




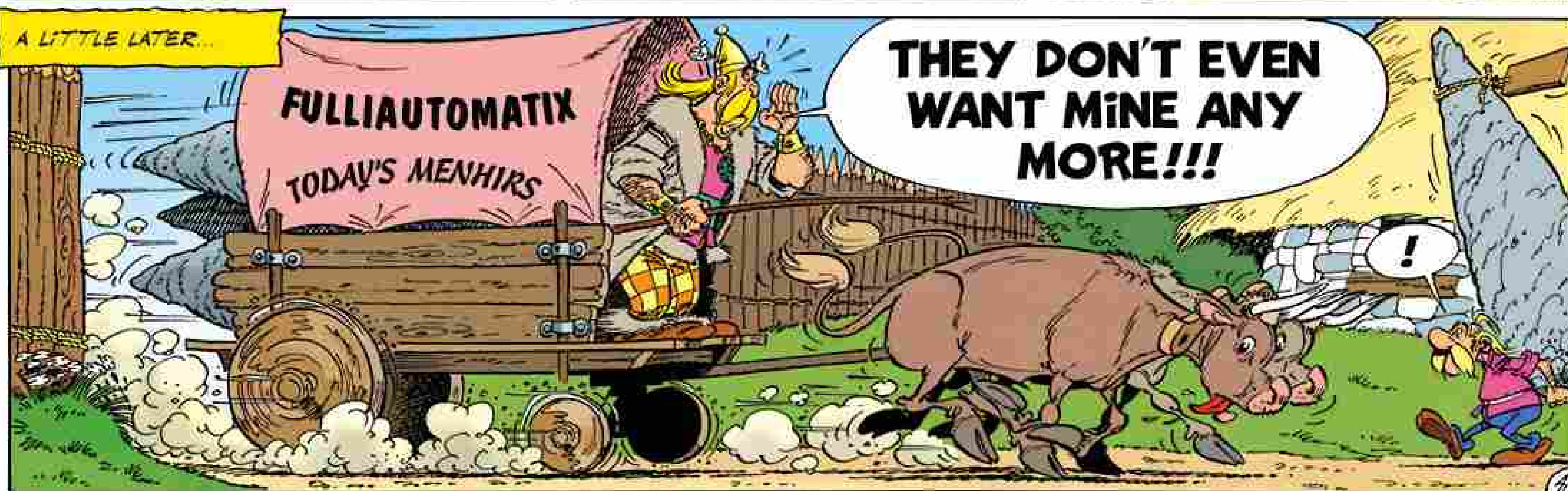
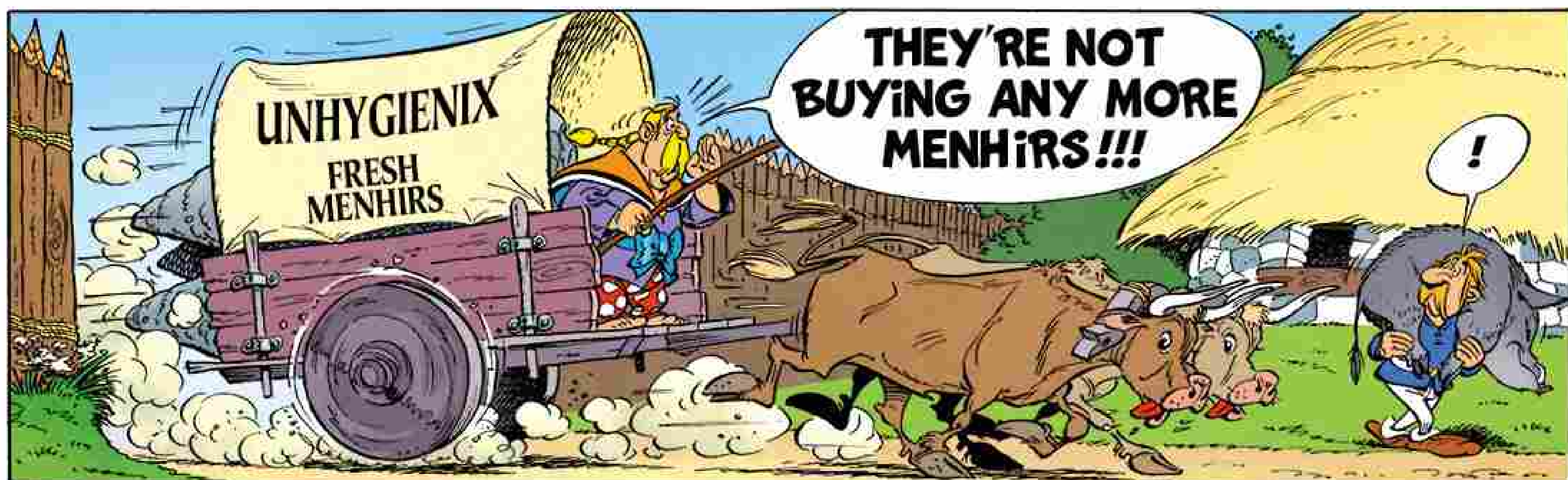


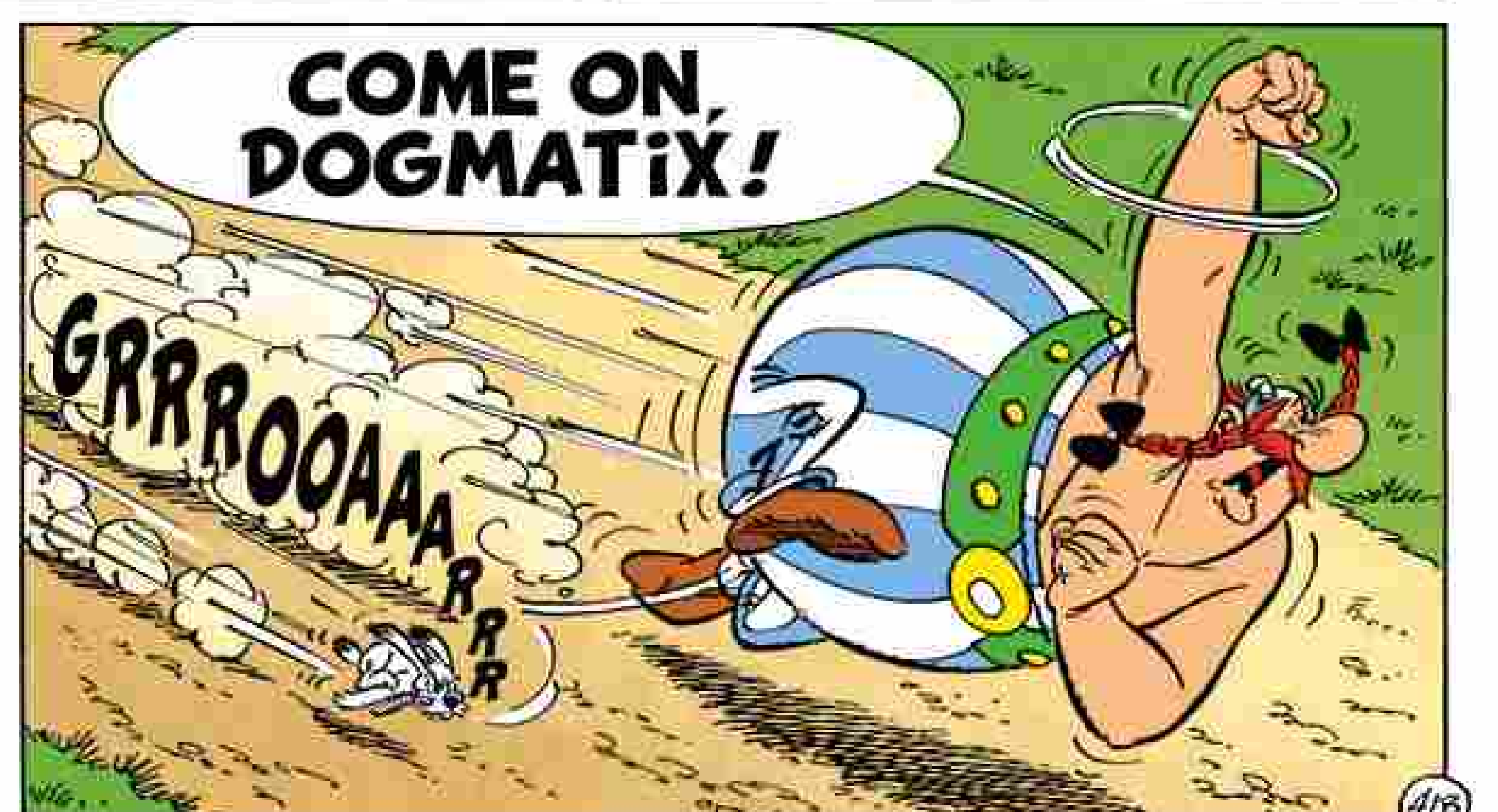
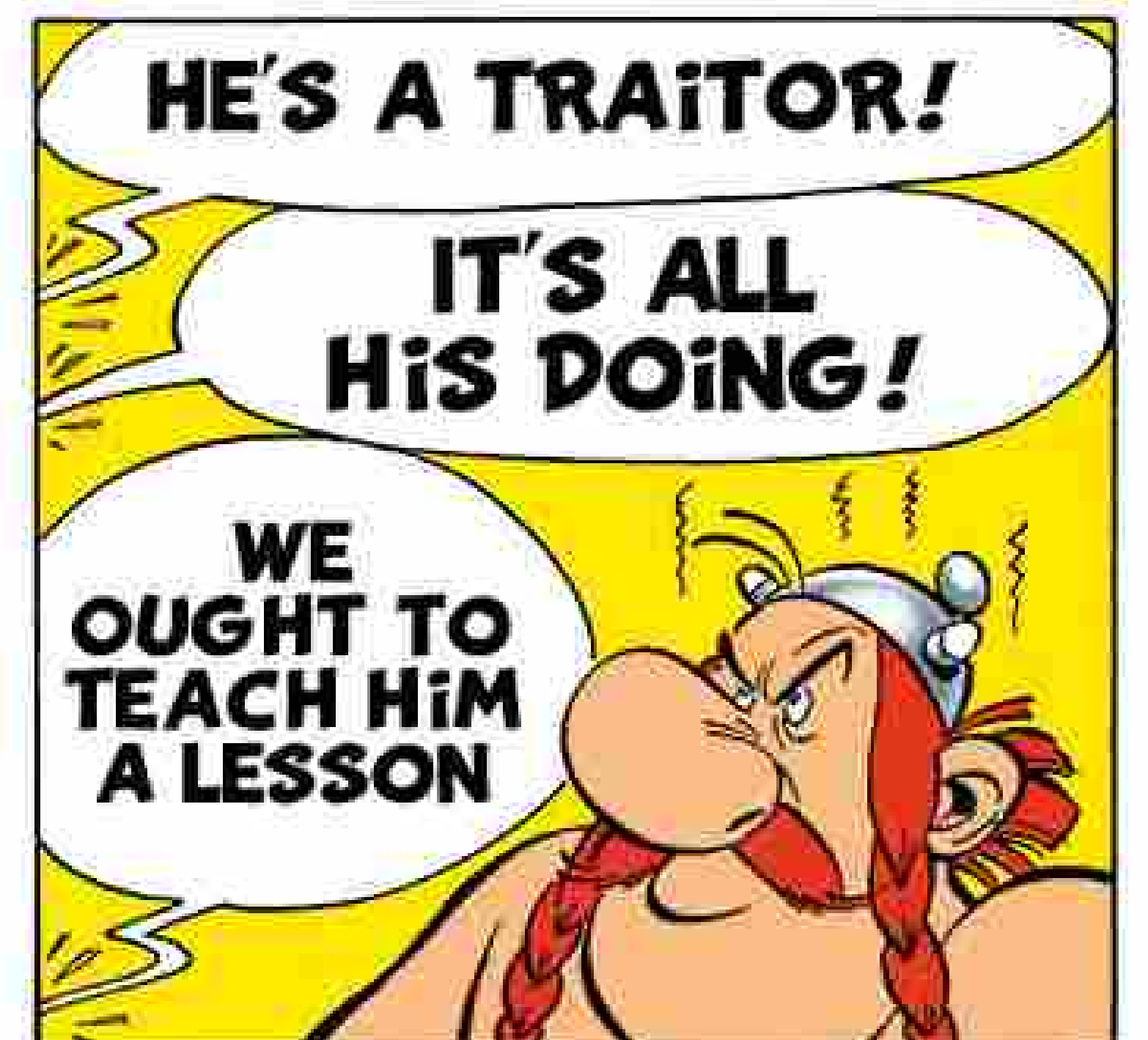
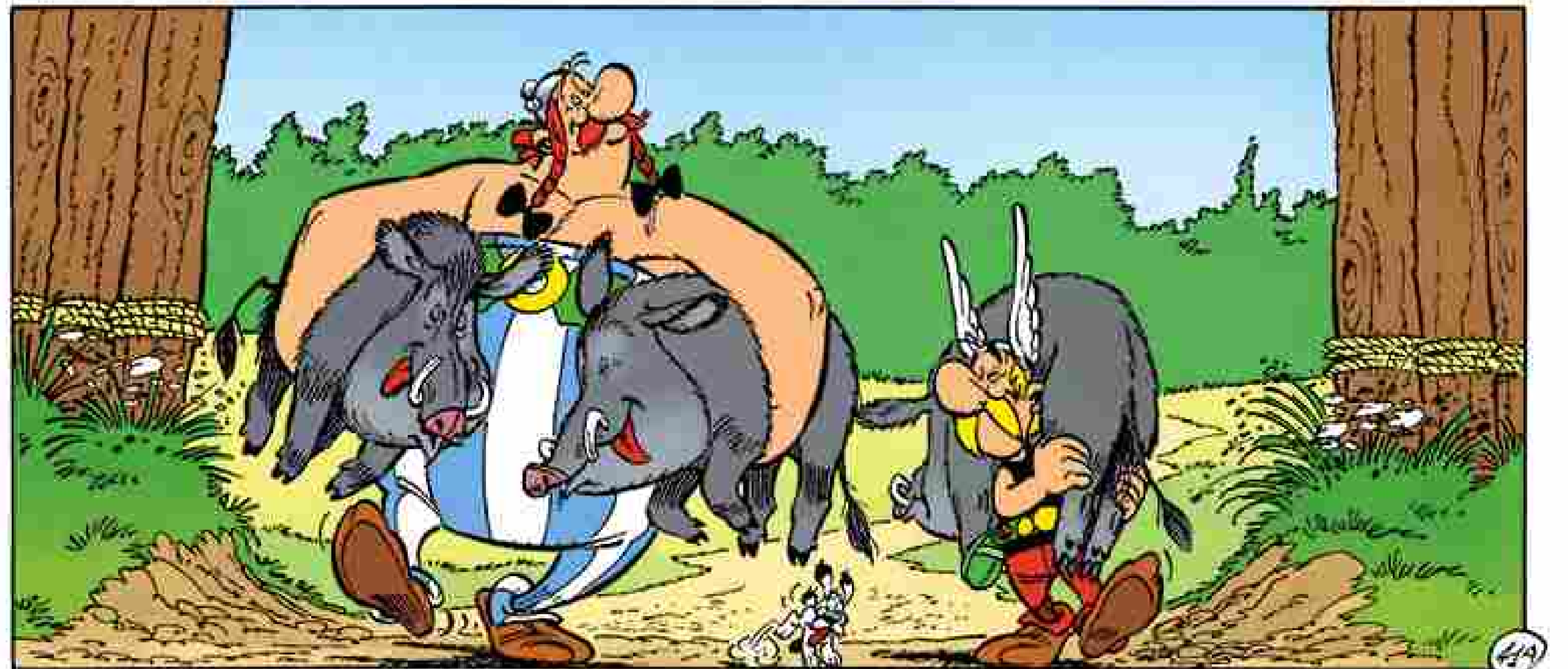
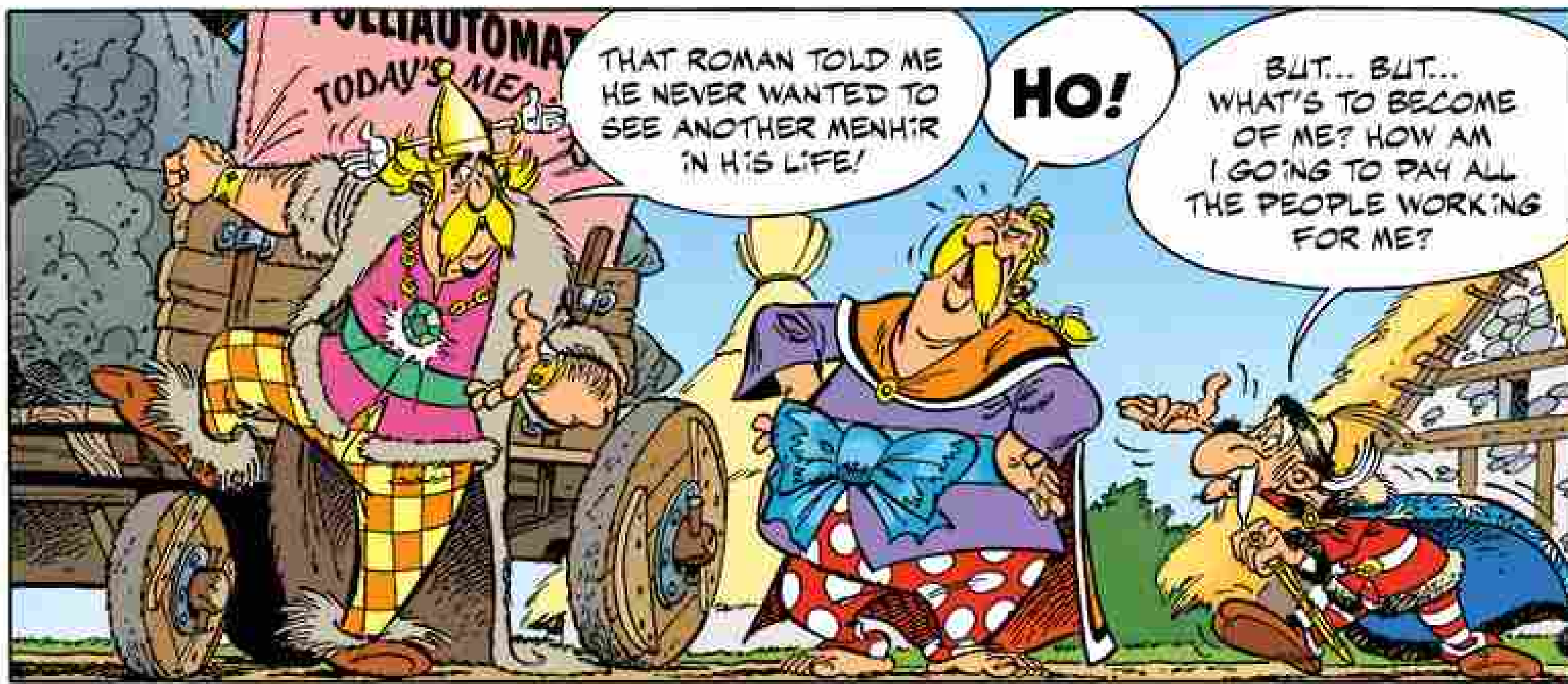
IN ROME, THE BOTTOM IS DROPPING OUT OF THE MENHIR MARKET

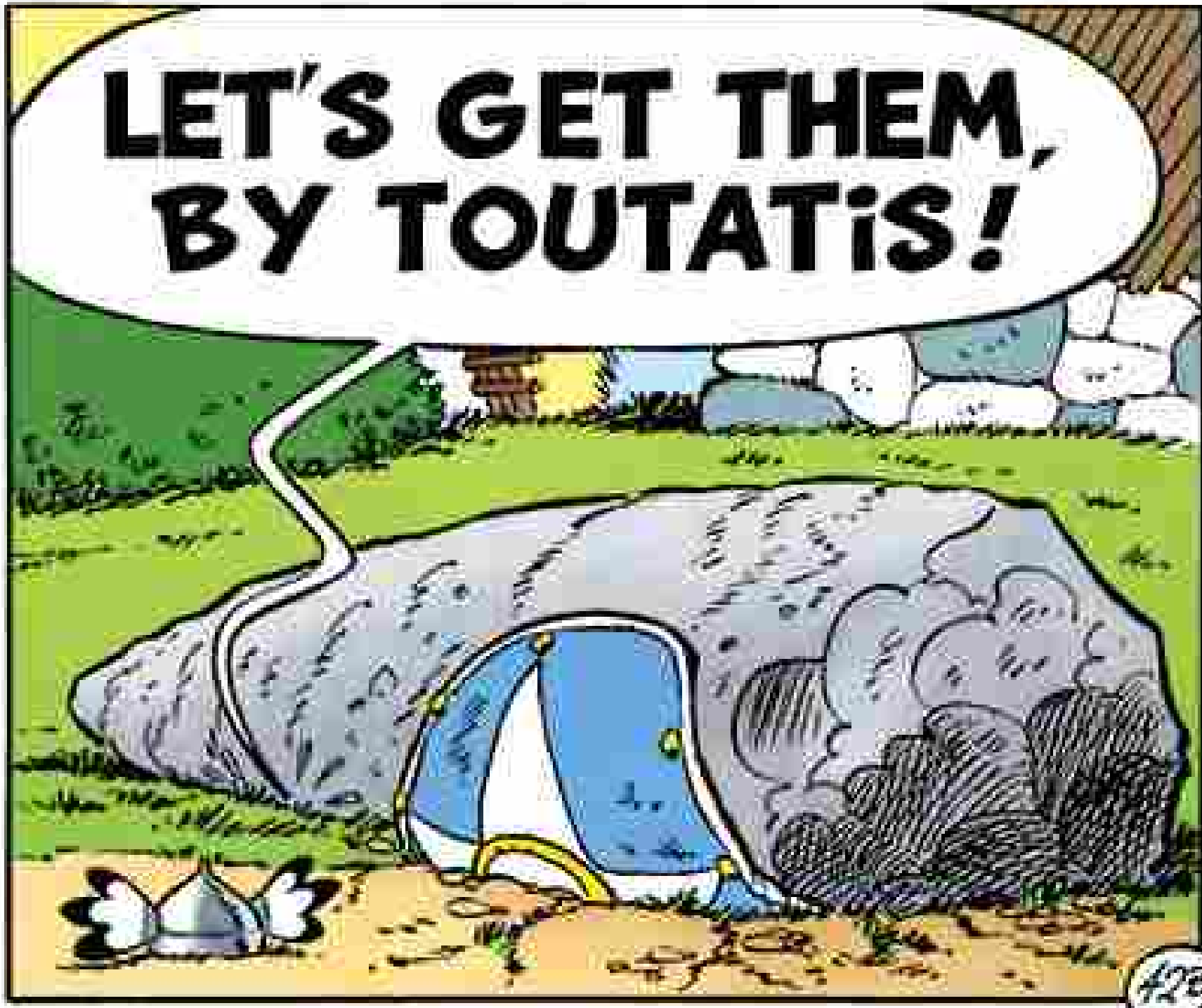
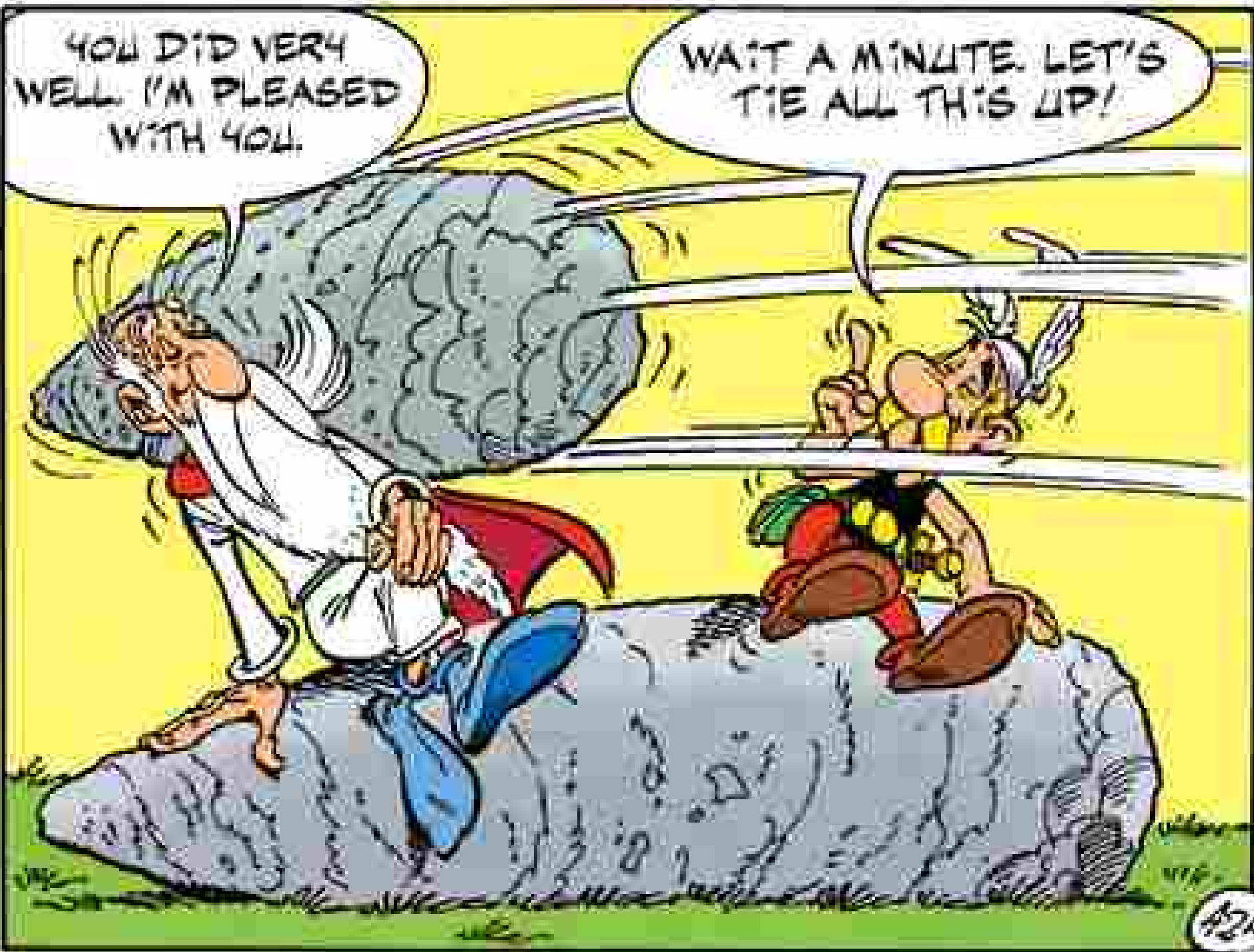
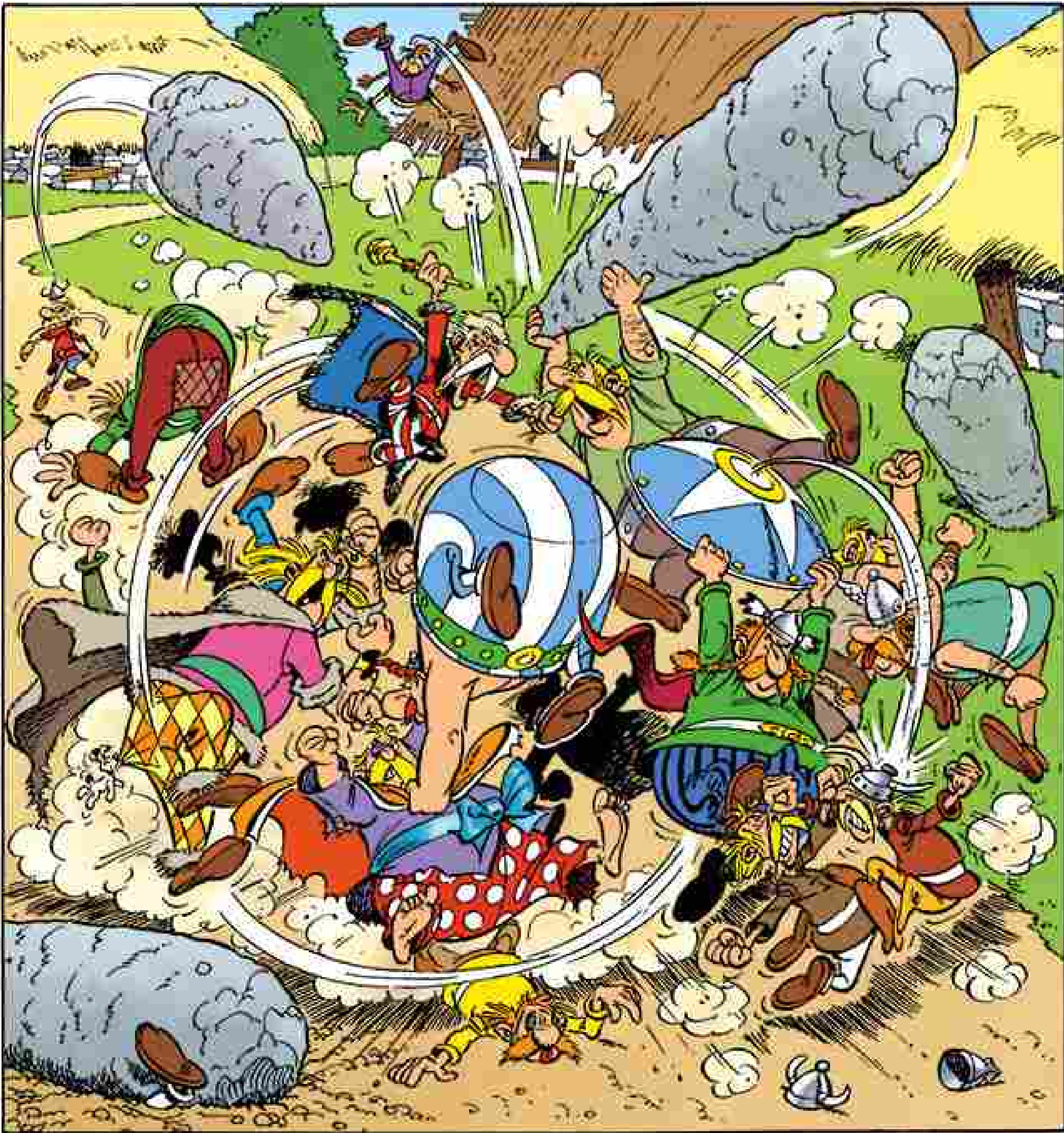


















I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!



Julius
Caesar sends
Caius Preposterus,
a bright young
graduate of the
Latin School of
Economics, to corrupt
the indomitable Gauls
by introducing them to
big business. Obelix's
menhir trade is soon
thriving, backed by a
heavy advertising campaign
– but does wealth bring
happiness? And what
will happen when the
bottom falls out of the
menhir market?

